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## YORK PLACE

DENTAL PRACTICE



## **Inside**

Mum's Bus Upset
Alec Shelbrooke
Wetherspoons
Yorkshire Vet
Cllr Dean Buckle
BBC Look North
Linton St Closed
Salmon Spotted

## Sewage in the Wharfe

The issue of water companies dumping untreated sewage into rivers and the sea hit the TV News headlines recently.

MPs were criticised for voting down a bill amendment which would place a legal duty on water companies not to discharge raw sewage into rivers.

Our river is possibly the greatest asset Wetherby has. It improves our quality of life and attracts visitors to the town. We asked Mark Barrow, local diver and campaigner, to explain the issues and what is at stake.

I have been filming underwater in UK rivers for well over 30 years and over those years I have seen everything in our rivers; from the varieties of beautiful fish to actually being covered in sewage when filming discharge points underwater. When I first started filming underwater it was not



uncommon for me to lay in a shoal of grayling **200** strong. Move forward to 2021 and I am now filming grayling in pockets of **20-30**. Grayling are susceptible to pollution due to having a small liver; they are the coal-mine canaries of the rivers.

Freshwater is an environment that is often overlooked and

Freshwater is an environment that is often overlooked and neglected but these stunning habitats hold some of the richest biodiversity in the world and our rivers are a vital and vibrant ecosystem for many species. Ultimately what happens with

rivers will have a significant

impact on our seas and oceans. We need to restore the diversity of these vital habitats back to how nature intended, before it is too late.

Sadly, England's waterways are facing their biggest fight to date against pollution caused by sewage, agriculture, chemicals and plastics. When we should be striving to move forwards, we are going backwards. In 2020 water firms



Mark on ITV's 'Tonight' Documentary

discharged untreated sewage into waterways 400,000 times which equates to over 3 million hours of untreated sewage and that figure will rise in 2021. Only 14% of England's rivers meet good ecological .

Another 8-Page Issue! Read it online at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press Editor Paul Kirby WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter:@WbyFreePress

Sewage cont'd

standards and all rivers in England are now polluted to some extent. In 2000 an impressive 92% of our rivers and canals were classed as good enough to support fish life. The figure is now 14%!

This year's data has not been published yet so 2020 figures for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) discharges are:

- Yorkshire Water's Sewage Treatment Works at Wentworth nr Rotherham discharged 7741 hours of untreated sewage
- Scarcroft Beck almost 1700 hours Bardsey Beck discharged 750 hours Collingham Beck discharged 91 hours

Those 3 CSOs combined discharged over 2500 hours or 105 days of untreated sewage last year. Note that the becks all flow into one and enter the river Wharfe via Collingham Beck.



Many thanks to Mick Wilson for letting us print his picture of a salmon jumping the weir in the first week of November.

He visited the river twice and each time saw about 12 - 15 salmon leaping, some making it over the top. Two jumped together near to the salmon sculpture. He tells us "The salmon run is one of nature's greatest migrations and can only be seen in October and November when the river is in flood."

Sights like this make it all the more vital that we keep the River Wharfe as clean as possible.

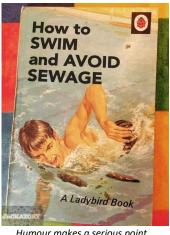
BENEATH BRITISH

WATERS

The Water Industry Act 1991 requires water companies to "effectually deal" with sewage, rendering it innocuous before discharging the effluent to rivers, a requirement that has been enforceable for the last thirty years. The only circumstances in which discharges of untreated sewage direct to rivers is acceptable in law is following periods of heavy rainfall, which threaten back-flooding of sewers into domestic properties. Mark's underwater media company

The beauty of rivers is that they can recover if nurtured, but this looks further away, particularly after the recent political shinnanigans. The Chair of the Environment Audit committee Philip Dunne, a Conservative MP, wrote an amendment to the Environment Bill to reduce storm overflow discharges, with a fully costed plan to do so. When the Bill

reached the Lords a further amendment was attached with an uncosted proposal to ban all storm overflows and would have forced water companies and the Government to 'take all reasonable steps' to avoid using the combined sewer overflows, which regularly release untreated waste into rivers and seas. 22 Conservative MPs rebelled and voted for this stronger amendment but it was not enough to get through.



Humour makes a serious point

We just want a legally enforceable obligation on our water companies to stop them routinely discharging raw sewage into our rivers and seas. That is the bottom line. The Bill, as it is framed at the moment, does not go far enough. Without that legal obligation, water companies can still cause harm and there is no guarantee of any immediate action to tackle sewage pollution. I think people have had enough of this prevaricating. The amendment needs to send out the strongest possible message to water companies and punishments must be a deterrent.

The cost of upgrading the sewage system across the UK has ranged from £160 - £660 billion, yet the DEFRA storm overflow task force states that the actual cost of progressively eliminating the worst and most damaging sewage pollution is £3.9 - £62.7 billion. The water companies have taken out billions (£57bn) in dividends paid to parent companies (mostly from outside the UK) between 1991 and 2019. I cannot understand how water companies have not been investing enough in the sewage system to upgrade it from a Victorian system to a 21st century one. Shareholders have benefited from healthy dividends, while the freshwater environment has suffered. Sewage is being discharged during minimal or no rainfall, despite the legislation allowing

it only in exceptional circumstances. Surely our waterways are equally as important as the rest of the natural world; they have shaped our villages, towns, cities and countryside. With our help, and placing nature first instead of profit, I believe that our river areas can become vibrant stunning ecosystems once again. We owe it not just to ourselves but to nature itself.

The Bill was passed on 8 Nov. The final amendment will place a legal duty on water companies to make a "progressive reduction" in sewage dumping but it does not go far enough for campaigners, like Mark. If you have any different opinions to Mark's, please tell us & we'll publish them.

## Wetherby on Telly

THE YORKSHIRE VET 5 MY



**Tuesdays** 8pm



Just 2 more programs in this informative and entertaining (and quite gory!) series. On 2 Nov we saw Julian in the classic James Herriot pose of his arm well up inside the backside of a cow, checking the state of a calf inside. Quite a contrast to him applying eye drops to a very small pet tortoise later in the show. On 9 Nov we were introduced to Carlston Hill Farm nr Wood Hall Hotel where they help people with disabilities reach their potential using the living resources of the farm, including alpacas.



One of the many great shots of Wetherby in each program



## TRANSPORT NEWS

Fuel prices for Unleaded: Correct on Thurs 11 Nov to nearest penny

Shell £1.50 Morrisons £1.46

For av. tank of 55 litres, that's a £2.20 difference

Up 9p & 8p in 5 wks



Closure of Main Street, Linton The road is closed until 26 November. X99 misses Linton out.

#### £1 Bus Fares

Harrogate Bus Company & First Bus are charging £1 for journeys after 7pm until 2022.

So enjoy Harrogate or Leeds for little cost, without the worry of parking or being over the drink-drive



#### **Evening trips to Harrogate on 7 (20 min journey):**

Mon to Fri - 7.05, 7.22, 7.52 from W'by Bus Station

Sat - 7.26, 8.18 from W'by Bus Station

Return from H'gate Bus Sta at 9.20, 10.20 & last bus 11.20

#### Evening trips to Leeds on X99 (45 min journey):

Mon to Fri - 7.04, 8.10 from W'by Bus Station

Sat - 7.07, 8.07 from W'by Bus Station

Return from Leeds City Sq on X99 at 10.03, (11.03 on Sat) Return from Leeds Bus Sta on 7 at 9.50, 10.50

The nationwide driver shortage is causing disruption to some services still. First bus have told me that is why the last weekday X99 is so early at 10.03pm. Harrogate Bus Co are offering to qualified drivers as a welcome bonus.



Boston Spa - War Memorial at 10:45 Clifford - War Memorial at 10:50

Collingham - Orchard Garden at 10:45

East Keswick - War Memorial at 12:15

Kirk Deighton Church at 10:55

Linton - Memorial Hall on Sat 13 Nov at 12:00 Wetherby -

09.00 Road closures around town centre

10.00 Town Hall open for Parade Leaders & Wreaths

10.25 Parade Leaders and Wreath Layers briefing

Parade moves to War Memorial at Bridge Foot 10.40

10.50 Parade forms up at Cenotaph

11.00 Act of Remembrance including 2 minutes silence

Laying of Wreaths 11.05

11.20 Parade ends and marches to Church

11.25 Roads re-opened once parade has passed



## Football favourite and former Leeds Utd player



is switching on Wetherby's Christmas lights on

#### **Thursday 25 November**

There will be an artisan market and refreshments available between 6.30pm & 9pm

## The Alec Shelbrooke Page

Alec Shelbrooke is a married 45 year old and has been our Conservative MP for 11 years. In the last election in 2019 he got 58% of the vote, the safest seat in West Yorkshire. He beat the Labour candidate by over 17,000 votes. The Conservatives have governed the country for the last 11 years. He campaigned to remain in Europe. An MP's basic salary is £82K. His email is alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk. Alec's voting record in parliament can be found at www.theyworkforyou.com

Space for Alec to inform us of anything he wants, unedited.

A meeting with Alec was arranged but he cancelled, telling us "I have been made aware of legal processes involving you and your publication. As such, I do not consider it appropriate to meet with you until such a time it is resolved."

We wrote back asking if the legal action is nothing to do with him, then what reason would he have to cancel the meeting.

We sent Alec this page in exactly this format.

It is a pity that Alec does not want to use this space to explain his views on the many important issues involving his colleagues and the government in the last 2 weeks.

The offer stays open indefinitely.



PMQs on 20 Oct (Wednesdays at 12.00)

We asked Alec what he thinks of the new bus stop flags in Wetherby, compared to the old. And Metro/WYCAs performance in putting them up - See Issue 2 for details.

We asked Alec if he thinks he keeps a low profile in the media, and whether he will inform us when he will be on TV or

national radio so we can inform residents on our Twitter acct.

We asked Alec how he chooses which resident issues to follow up.

We asked Alec whether he is in favour of HS2 and reasons.

We asked whether Alec is in favour of a Wetherspoons coming to Wetherby.



## Follow the herds of happy customers to

# Fox Saddlers Established Over 100 Years



Our shop on Northgates is fully stocked with designer brands such as Dubarry, Barbour and Le Chameau.

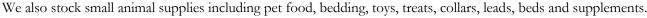
Our expert staff will ensure you find exactly what you are looking for whether it be a pair of new waterproof boots or a new warm winter jacket.

We have all occasions covered from a day at the races to an autumn dog walk, horse riding and shooting even the school run!

Thinking about treating someone special? Or dare we mention Christmas?

Browse our gifts - from socks to purses and gloves to bobble hats - we have accessories galore including the super brands Sabbot, Ariat and Hoggs of Fife.

Did you know that we don't just cater for everything country and equestrian?





### We are Wetherby's One-Stop Shop for

Equine laundry - Saddle fitting and repair services - Animal Feeds -Bedding - Clothing & footwear - Safetywear - Shooting accessories -Tools - Wild Bird Seed - Hotmax fuels

If we don't stock what you need, we will always try and get it!

Shop online at: www.foxsaddlers.co.uk

Tel: 01937 586070 Email: admin@foxsaddlers.co.uk Find us on Facebook, Instagram & Tik Tok to keep up to date!





The Crown Inn, the only Sam Smiths pub in town, is still closed after 2 years.

We have been reliably informed that Bar Three is to become a "town pub kitchen" when the current lease runs out in March 2022. The current owner will not be kept on as the Stonegate Group is re-branding it as a managed house.

And Great News that the Red Lion is re-opening. It has the best outside area for sitting and watching the world go by (and all the near misses on the mini-roundabout!).

Wetherspoons – The Marmite of the Pub World The most well-known pub chain in the UK arouses deep emotions in many. Love 'em or hate 'em, they want to expand to every town in the country. Similar-sized towns to Wetherby have had a 'Spoons for years eg Knaresborough, Otley, Ilkley, Thirsk, Garforth. A rumour started circulating last month that they had found premises large enough in Wetherby. Our immediate reaction was 'fantastic' but not everyone may welcome them. Reactions were fairly well divided on Wetherby's main Facebook group 'Wetherby Grumbler'.

The most obvious businesses that may be disadvantaged are other pubs. So we asked Facebook groups in Otley and Knaresborough with 1000s of members for clear evidence that pubs had closed after their Spoons had opened.

There were many strong opinions but nobody could provide a single example. This is particularly surprising as Otley is well known for its high number of pubs for its population. There were many comments about the benefits, namely that other pubs raised their games and standards increased overall.

Looking for national research on this matter, we found one report by a data and insight consultancy, CGA (https://cgastrategy.com/) in 2018, which suggested the popular pub group often has a positive rather than negative effect on licensed trade.

It stated that after 3 years of Wetherspoons opening, more than half (58%) of the areas within a half-mile radius have increased their number of licensed premises, with only two in five (43%) recording a decline. There is a particularly sharp increase in food-led licensed premises nearby, suggesting that the group can stimulate general local interest in eating out. The positive effect has been greater in city centres than in suburban areas. Sample size was 223 pubs.

Wetherspoons does not do sports on its TV screens (except Nations Rugby Union for some reason) so pubs with live football, rugby league etc will continue to attract those customers. Those that do home-made and high quality food should not have anything to fear either. Only those with poor customer service, atmosphere and high priced drinks would suffer.

A Wetherspoons in Wetherby would attract more visitors, there is little doubt about that. And that will bring an overall benefit to other businesses. We asked Jamie Hullah, new Chairman of the Wetherby Business Association for his comments. None were received.

The Wetherspoon's Press Office told us that Wetherby is a town they are 'looking at and keen to open a pub, but the company won't comment on any specific sites'. They promised to keep us informed.



## **Democracy in Action - Spotlight on Our Town Councillors**

**Councillor Dean Buckle is a familiar face around Wetherby.** He runs the Wetherby Bike Shack on Horsefair and does a lot for various organisations in town.



And he is the first Councillor to engage with us. We wrote to him with the usual list of questions and he asked us to call him. So we went round to meet him and have a chat

He explained that he felt unable to answer the questions as he has not been a councillor for long. Using the computer is not his strong point and he is more of a people person. Residents come round to him and he tries to sort problems out there and then with the minimum of fuss. That is the sort of councillor we like - pro-active and accessible.

We also got the impression he is not into politics - he just wants to do his bit for the community. It is a complete mystery to us why party politics plays any part in a town council. Maybe the other councillors can explain it to us.

Cllr Buckle agreed to provide some written information about himself.

In summary, he has supported many local organisations: local schools with their functions, Wetherby Lions, Kirk Deighton Rangers AFC and the Old Men's Parliament where they deliver fruit & veg to elderly people every month.

Cllr Buckle says we can treat his shop as a 'hub' to come and complain about, or praise, what is happening in the town.

Hopefully, following Cllr Buckle's example, Cllr Sam Beckett and Cllr Paul Bradley will change their mind and decide to tell us a bit about how they see their role in the town. Next alphabetically is Cllr Harry Chapman.





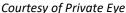
"My Mum's great at her job, never lost a case"
"Oh aye, she a lawyer for the defence or prosecution?"
"Neither, she's a baggage handler at LBA"

Scottish mountaineer, Sir Hugh Munro, 1856 name for compiling a mountains

1919, made a himself by list of Scottish measuring

over 3,000 ft (914m)







## Mother forced to leave bus and pay again

Late last month Daniela Roscoe boarded the number 7 bus in Harrogate with her 6-month old in a pushchair. She was asked to leave the bus at Wetherby because a disabled person in a wheelchair needed the space at the front.

Daniela asked the driver if she could change the position of the pram so that both could fit in the space but she claims the driver refused to allow this. The driver assured her that she would not have to pay again on the next bus.

After a 30-minute wait and having explained what had happened, Daniela said that the following bus driver told her 'It's not my problem' and that she had to buy another ticket. The young mother felt so humiliated that she felt like bursting into tears. She refused to pay another fare and her husband collected her at Wetherby.

**Doug Paulley is a local campaigner** for disability rights and took the other major bus company in Wetherby, First Bus, to court about this issue after a similar incident in 2012. In that case the mother with a pram refused to leave the bus. In

January 2017 the Supreme Court made a landmark ruling that bus companies must end 'first come, first served' policies and do more to cater for wheelchair users.

Doug informed Daniela on social media that 'the supreme Court were clear that where a parent does get off the bus, the bus driver must issue a journey continuation ticket for the person to get on the next bus'. He said that he was sorry that she didn't receive one and that the next driver was so unpleasant.

He added that the first bus driver is 'obliged to ask you first to fold your buggy or pushchair, then if not to try to persuade you to do so. If you don't, they may refuse to move the bus for a few minutes. If you still don't, they will probably be forced to leave the disabled person at the



## What's On

#### Wetherby Film Theatre Showing in November



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



#### Spencer

(Drama/Historical) 12A In 1991, while spending the Christmas holiday with the royal family at Sandringham House,

Princess Diana decides to leave Prince Charles.



#### Dune

(Sci-fi/Adventure) 12A Feature adaptation of Frank Herbert's science fiction novel, about the son of a noble family

entrusted with the protection of the most valuable asset and most vital element in the galaxy.

Times, tickets and more at wetherbyfilmtheatre.com

#### **Engine Shed**

**Soul Train** - A fabulous opportunity to relieve the Motown era with a 8 piece soul/motown tribute band! **SAT 13th November** - Doors at 19:30 - Tickets £12.50

More information at engineshedwetherby.co.uk

### More local events

#### **Wetherby Choral Society**

SAT 20th Nov, 19:30 - St James' Parish Church, W'by Tickets £17.00 Tel. 07860 454894

#### Christmas Fair Saturday

SAT 4th Dec, 9:30-13:00 - St James' Parish Church, W'by

### Wetherby Markets and Fairs

Weekly Market: Every Thursday, Market Place Artisan Market: SUN 21th Nov, 10:00-15:00, Market Pl

All information is subject to change.

kerbside, to wait however long for the next bus, because you're occupying the wheelchair space. Signage on the bus is clear that it is a wheelchair space and that priority should be given to wheelchair users. That's all as set out in the Supreme Court judgment in Paulley vs Firstbus.'

Doug strongly believes that public transport is for everybody and that there should be provision for families with pushchairs and prams, and he's glad to see that there often, or usually, is on buses these days, in addition to the spaces specifically designed and provided for disabled people.

There was a large response on social media to this story when it was posted on the Facebook group 'Wetherby Grumbler' with over 21,000 members. It received over 300 comments, an extraordinary number compared to other posts. There was a great deal of sympathy for the mother over the way she was treated. There was no response from Harrogate Bus Company to the posts.

We googled this issue to find out how widespread these difficulties are. Local papers around the UK often pick up on stories like this. We could not find one example in recent times since the new ruling was introduced. It seems they are very rare. Sadly, there were a few instances of wheelchair users still being discriminated against.

We asked Bus Users UK how common this issue is currently and for any other comments on it. They said 'This isn't a complaint we receive particularly often but I'm afraid we're unable to comment on cases currently being investigated'.

We contacted Harrogate Bus Company and Steve Ottley, General Manager, said "We pride ourselves on looking after our customers and share any disappointment when things go wrong. I have been leading the investigation into this incident which obviously we take very seriously, not just the incident in itself but also the advice given to the customer to travel on a following bus".

He added "Our industry-leading driver training programme includes compliance with relevant legal requirements, including the 2017 Supreme Court judgement on priority access for wheelchair users."

Editor's Comment. The first driver's action in this case was correct regarding the law that prioritises wheelchair users in the space at the front of a bus, as Doug Paulley explained. But it's common sense to allow the mother to stay, if the pushchair could have fitted when folded up. And he should have given Daniela a continuation ticket. The attitude and behaviour of the second driver does not sound acceptable. This is surprising as Transdev, the company that owns Harrogate Bus Company, prides itself on customer service. Its drivers are better trained and generally much friendlier than others.

Harrogate Bus Company should join and monitor the larger Facebook community groups so that they can respond immediately to posts. This particular incident may well have put off many parents with babies and young children from using the bus. Thankfully, new buses have more space for people with disabilities and parents with pushchairs so incidents like this should become even rarer.

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2021 Remaining Issues:

Issue 7 on Fri 27 Nov

Issue 8 on Fri 10 Dec

Issue 9 on Mon 20 Dec - online only

## BBC Look North "Visit website for scores"!

We have noticed recently that BBC Look North (Yorkshire) are not giving us the local football results any more on their weekend bulletins. They tell us to go and visit the BBC website!! Is that laziness or do their editors really dislike traditional sports, like football and rugby league, that much?

Out of curiosity we checked the BBC North West Tonight program and, of course, they had the results for all their major teams, like Man City, Liverpool and Accrington Stanley.



ITV Calendar News always has the results, and often the goal action too. It also has far better coverage during the week. Look North often ignores the previous night's action. We wonder how our football clubs feel about this.



BBC Look North have not responded to tweets and an email we sent about this. We think this is not acceptable when we pay our licence fee and they promise 'latest news and sport'

Feel free to email them with your views - Look.North@bbc.co.uk





Email WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter @WbyFreePress

Fridays Every 2 Weeks - Online & Print

"Quite Aggressive Phone Calls" Following the main story in the last issue about manager Mark Dobson's and the Trustees' behaviour at charity WISE, one of the charity shops that displays our newsletter received unpleasant phone calls, telling them they should not be supporting us. The manager said they were quite aggressive and she made the decision to stop displaying the WFP.

Whoever called that shop should be ashamed of themselves. Instead of upsetting charity shop staff, these anonymous cowards should contact the Wetherby Free Press and tell us exactly what was wrong with the story. We would be delighted to meet with you face-to-face to discuss the issues. We have not received any complaints about it.



Indeed, the response was most heartening and we are very grateful for your donations, especially one particularly generous gift. Thank you to our new advertisers, too.

We say again that everyone named in the newsletter has a right to reply. Nobody from WISE has contacted us.



**Leeds United** gained a much needed 3 points on 31 Oct away against Norwich in front of the TV cameras. A week later they drew 1 - 1 at home against Leicester City, leaving them 15th in the table, 3 points above the relegation zone.

Spurs v Utd on Sun 21 Nov at 16.30 sky sports &

Harrogate Town FC beat Wrexham 2 - 1 in the FA Cup but lost to Sheff Wed 4 - 0 in EFL Trophy on 9 Nov. Games on Sat at 15.00:

Walsall v **Town** on 13 Nov **Town** v Salford City on 20 Nov

**York City** lost 1-0 to Buxton in the FA Cup and dropped to 10th in the Nat Lge North on 9 Nov after losing 2 - 0 at Leamington.

Curzon Ashton v **City** on Sat 13 Nov at 15.00

City v Kettering on Sat 20 Nov at 15.00



**Leeds Knights** lost to Telford Tigers & Peterboro on 6 & 7 Nov resp

Their next 2 games are at home:

Sat 13 Nov v Peterborough Phantoms at 18.30 Sat 20 Nov v Bees IHC at 18.30

Adult tickets from £13 to £16. Planet Ice Leeds arena is next to Elland Rd Football Ground

**Wetherby Races** 



Sat 13 Nov at 12.15 Wed 24 Nov at 12.45