

WETHERBY



until Fri 29 Sep '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

YOUR Community Newsletter



Read Full Issue at

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



Contents overleaf



More Shops Closing Wetherby Business Assoc'n no comment

After the news that Wetherspools are not opening in Wetherby, not a week seems to go by without another of our businesses closing.



The latest is the Candy Shop on Crossley Street and to everyone's surprise and disappointment, the Gourmet café too.

It seems few businesses are immune from high rents, high energy bills or difficulties finding staff, even in 'Golden Triangle' Wetherby. The situation attracts much comment on social media.

We looked on the website and social media accounts of Wetherby Business Association (WBA) for any comment about the current state of affairs with so many businesses closing. We found none. We looked for anything the organisation is doing to make the empty premises look more attractive but found nothing. They have managed only one tweet so far this year!

Jamie Hullah, Chair of WBA is very welcome to write an article and tell us what his organisation is doing extra to help in these tough times for retail.

Gourmet's owner speaks out on page 8

'Irresponsible' Post about River by Linda Richards

Former Conservative Councillor, Linda Richards posted on Wetherby Grumbler Facebook page (27,700 members):

"WANT A CLEANER RIVER WHARFE? We need a mass paddle/swim in the River Wharfe near the bandstand on Sun Sept 3, and Mon Sept 4. We need over 100 people on each day. Can you be there 2 pm or 3 pm to show how the river is used and is so important to our community? It has to be swimmers or paddlers (walking or playing in the river) I'm afraid, but it doesn't need to be for long. Children are especially welcome. Use the last days of summer holidays to create a positive change."

Leeds City Councillor (Green) Penny Stables responded:

"It is highly irresponsible to encourage people into the river Wharfe whilst we know it is dangerously polluted with raw sewage and run off from farmers fields. We all want a cleaner river Wharfe



Best to stay out of the river like these ducks?

that is safe for all to enjoy, but there are other ways to achieve this." The Editor responded to Mrs Richard's post with "Very strange that Linda does not mention the Wetherby & Villages Clean Rivers Group in this post. Has it disbanded after we featured it in last issue of Wetherby Free Press? The group does not have a constitution, has a poor website compared to Ilkley's and Linda still has not apologised for posting blatantly political tweets on the Group's Twitter feed." Linda has not responded to any of the questions or issues we have raised and she deleted our response to her Grumbler post.

Comment

People should be fully aware that our river is polluted and therefore the decision whether to paddle or swim in the Wharfe is entirely at your own risk.

What is interesting is the language and tone of Linda Richard's post. She says 'can you' and 'Use the' and 'we need' twice. There is not a single 'please' or 'thank you', or 'could you' or 'we would like'. It sounds harsh and gives the impression that people ought to do what she says.

Is this the same sort of attitude we have seen before from councillors (always Conservative) in their refusal to answer legitimate questions? - it's as though they think 'why should we answer your questions or apologise to you?'

The answer is, of course, because I am a taxpaying resident. No surprise she deleted our perfectly reasonable response to her post.

Brass Band Concerts by River

2.30 - 4.30

Sun 10 Sep	Wetherby
Sun 17 Sep	Hade Edge
Sun 24 Sep	Hebden Br

+ Last of Season +

only £1

from & Toys

OPEN SUNDAYS

We Are Not-For-Profit - Please Donate to Help Us Keep Our High Profile

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£1000+ raised for Guide Dogs Page 8



Another Draw

Win



Page 11



'Best' Joke at Edinburgh Fringe '23
I started dating a zookeeper, but it turned out he was a cheetah.

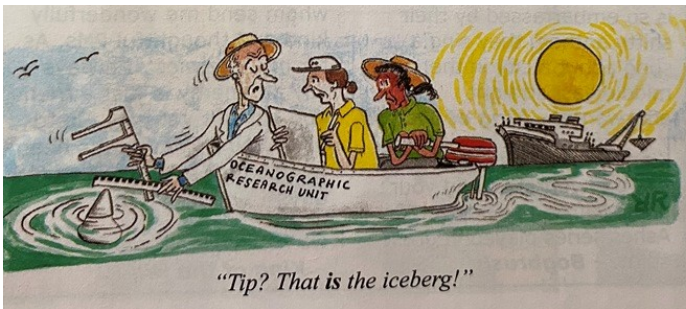
We think these are better:

The most British thing I've ever heard? A lady who said 'Well I'm sorry, but I don't apologise'

I thought I'd start off with a joke about the Titanic — just to break the ice

How do coeliac Germans greet each other? Gluten tag

I entered the 'How not to surrender' competition and I won hands down



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



We are the Friendliest

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

Notes on Wetherby Town Council Mtg - Aug

12/15 Councillors Attended. LCC Cllrs Alan Lamb (Con) & Penny Stables (Green) also attended and reported to mtg.

One member of the public was there to raise speeding, parking and HGV usage on Audby Lane.

The standard response time for emails sent to the Town Council is within two working days. Thank you to Cllr Knight for raising this. It shows that the Council has standards in one small area but is it measured? Pointless if not.

£100 was awarded to W'by Civic Society for Great Sale 2024.

The Clerk Iona Taylor & Cllr O'Byrne said it was 'interesting to learn about the activities and priorities of different councils, for example Normanton Town Council which has an events budget of £76,500 (precept of £332,000).' And? Utterly pointless info unless you tell us what you learnt and how it compared to W'by.

The minutes mention 'Better Wetherby Partnership'. Why do they never add the Ltd to the name? It is a Limited company, though we still have no idea why.

Wetherby Free Press, a newsletter for the whole community is not mentioned under 'Correspondence' despite us writing to them after every published edition. They removed the 'List of Correspondence' earlier this year. Wonder why!

WTC cannot afford any '20 is Plenty' signs for Linton Road.

cont'd on page 6

MEET THE EDITOR

Morrisons Café, nr the entrance



TO BE RE-ARRANGED
DUE TO CLOSURE OF CAFE



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 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 at £2 has all but given up on the town. Until there's an alternative, please help us to help our community.

WHAT'S ON

Wetherby Musical Theatre Group presents:

Registered charity no: 700570

Fancy dress strongly encouraged



Tickets only £13

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

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

Supported by:
Hopkinson Dental



Book now!

Bee-Crafty Markets

Craft Market & Café
at
Wetherby Town Hall

Saturday 9th September

10am-3pm



Bee-Crafty Market



Can you contain your excitement? Yes, of course you can but ... almost there ... the 45th Wetherby Festival starts on Fri 29 September!

Ticket sales are going well and will now pick up as we all suddenly realise it's almost October (some events are sold out or close to so get a move on!).

Call My Wine Bluff kicks us off on Fri 29 September which gives you a chance to outwit "experts" whilst enjoying some quality wine, then it goes on until Sun 8 October with just some of the following events:

- LIGHT MUSIC SINGERS - Sat 30 Sept
- COMEDY NIGHT - Sun 1 Oct
- TRANSPORT IN WETHERBY - Mon 2 Oct
- CAMERA CLUB TALK - Tues 3 Oct
- MOUNTAIN FILM ADVENTURE NIGHT - Thurs 5 Oct
- DISTRICT BLUES BAND - Fri 6 Oct
- WETHERBY SILVER BAND - Sat 7 Oct

These are just some of the events and more have been added... to see them all you can go to the full event schedule at wetherbyfestival.co.uk. where you can buy your tickets or wait until 15th September when the Box Office at the Town Hall opens for those of you who prefer physical tickets.

Support and Enjoy!!!



TRANSPORT NEWS

Cost of Unleaded *Correct on Fri 8 Sep to nearest p*

Shell £1.60 Morrisons £1.59 **up 12p from 2 mths ago**

Tesco Seacroft £1.51

Diff b/w Shell & Tesco to fill av tank is £5



Single Bus Fares £2 until 31 Oct



CATCH THE BUS MONTH
GET ON BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2023



WE'RE ON BOARD FOR CATCH THE BUS MONTH!

Take a trip to Roundhay Park, Harrogate, York, Leeds or Otley

Connexions Managing Director Craig Temple has written another column for Buses magazine.

It says nothing relevant to passengers of his services in Wetherby.

We offered him a free column in WFP but he declined.

It looks like he prioritises bus enthusiasts over his passengers and our readers.

We would like to know what he is doing to get our York & Otley Saturday services back.



Hallfield Lane

Harrogate Bus Company (Transdev) have changed the times of two buses on their route 8 to Knaresborough via Kirk Deighton & Little Ribston.

The changes affect late afternoon journeys on Monday to Friday only.

The last bus from Knaresborough at 16.21 now leaves 20 minutes later at 16.41

The last bus from Wetherby at 16.55 now

leaves 20 minutes later at 17.15. **Saturday times remain the same.**

On the face of it this seems a good thing - more time for visits, shopping and afternoon drinking in 'Spoons etc. But why not Saturday as well, Paul Turner, Commercial Director? Keep it simple Transdev, please. No explanation for these changes on their website. And it means that Transdev's Wetherby leaflet featured in the last issue needs updating. The new timetables were NOT available from the library 5 days after the change was introduced. This route will always be vulnerable to cuts so PLEASE use it.



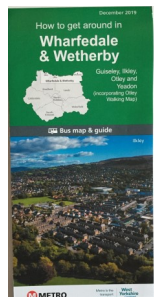
3 Die in Bus Crash on A61 near Ripon

A horrific accident happened on Sun 3 Sept involving 2 cars and a double-decker bus at South Stainley between Harrogate & Ripon. Bus passengers were also treated for injuries. Local and national media reported this but there were no details of the bus involved. There is only one passenger route using that road and it is the H'gate Bus Co's 36 Leeds to Ripon. Readers may remember a bus crash in Wetherby involving a Harrogate Bus Company bus in July 2021. A wall of silence followed the incident, in which the no 7 ploughed into the Paper Shop, thankfully missing pedestrians. The apathy of our local councillors (Conservative) means the public will probably never be told exactly what happened.

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 (Connexions' 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, see right

Metro stopped printing maps in 2019



Tell us your Bus Experiences **4** Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

A 10 Foot Sunflower is the Pride of Deighton Rd Flats

Next time you pass Morrisons petrol station take a look opposite near the zebra crossing and admire a perfect example of a tall sunflower.

Chandni Yadav contacted us and told us how proud she is of this beautiful flower. She was amazed at how quickly it has grown over summer and says the reason may be the red onion water she feeds the plant.

"I grow it in my flat first and then planted it earlier this year", she said.

The other residents are very impressed with Chandni's gardening skills. In a small plot near the entrance of Birkmyre House she is cultivating potatoes, tomatoes, chilli plants and roses too.

We are delighted to feature this and thank Wetherby folk, like Chandni, who cheer us all up with their green-fingered efforts.

Keep up the Great Work!

(Perhaps the Town Council could have a competition to find the most attractive garden, giving the winner a sponsored prize)



The tallest sunflower grown in the UK was 26 foot and grown in Wigan in 2012

Chandni underneath her sunflower with neighbours

Attempted Robbery at Morrisons Petrol Station

It happened in the early hours of Thursday 31 Aug when it was closed and no staff were on site. A vehicle rammed into the door where a cash machine is situated. The thieves were unsuccessful and the station was closed for much of Thursday as police forensics investigated the scene.

The only information about this incident was on social media from unofficial sources. There was nothing on the social media of Leeds North East Police division about it.

Councillors who have close links with the Police could provide no information either. The best source of information for all crime incidents in Yorkshire remains YappAppLtd found on Facebook & Twitter, often used by local BBC & ITV news.



Two PCSOs and Morrisons staff observe the Forensics Officer



Stoat or Weasel?



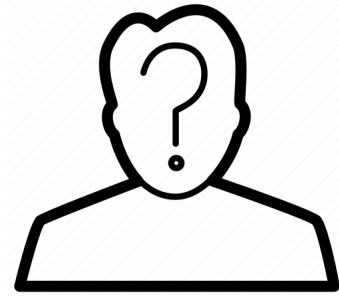
Robert E Fuller

My wife and I see a stoat / weasel occasionally on our countryside walks around Wetherby.

The Woodland Trust says the easiest and most reliable way to tell a stoat from a weasel is the tail. A stoat's tail is around half the length of its body and ends in a bushy black tip. A weasel's tail is short and stubby by comparison and solely brown in colour.

They often dart across footpaths so you have to be quick to spot which it is. Both are thought to be common but difficult to count. Numbers are estimated to be around 450,000 of each. Expert and photographer Robert Fuller says the stoat will kill a weasel given the chance. We thank him for the photo.

For more photos and videos of these incredible creatures, visit www.robertefuller.com



Still no photos of Iona Taylor, Town Clerk or Barry Riley, Deputy Town Clerk on website

All 15 Wetherby Town Councillors

Crime Stats for July: 12 Anti-social and 108 general crimes. No comment or analysis on these figures. So we will do it - 1 more anti-social than June and 13 more general crimes than June. What is the point of the Police & Communities Together meetings when there is no comment about them, or analysis of figures?

Wetherby Foodbank has not featured in the minutes before of any Town Council meeting. They now want to consider supporting the organisation.

This is a good thing but could it be that our 100% Conservative Town Council found having such an organisation in the town rather embarrassing so they simply ignored it. It reflects poorly on their masters in government and our MP Alec Shelbrooke. Now we have some independently-minded councillors and this important charity has suddenly been noticed.

WTC is going to consider the illegal parking outside Dominos at the next meeting. Good Luck with that when our Conservative councillors have failed miserably to have an impact on illegal parking outside another pizza place blocking the bus station exit after more than a year.



Wetherby Foodbank was not mentioned when Council was all Conservative



Two plaques at Weir. £1000 to replace the first one, we are guessing! Paid for but no done yet. Why?

The Blue Plaque at the Weir costs nearly £1000 to replace. That is a large amount! Why so much? And when will it be replaced? This is what our 80% increase in Council Tax precept is going on, folks.

Communications & Events Officer: The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to appoint a Communications and Events Officer during the first round of advertising. **WHY?? Disgracefully low standard of minuting and yet another example of lack of openness with the public.**

Climate Emergency Ctte (minuted by Barry Riley, Deputy Clerk)- A member of the public referred to comments submitted to him concerning the efficacy of the Committee, that not enough was being done by the Council and what could be achieved going forward. He suggested that the use of volunteer groups would help deliver aspects of the action plan and meetings about climate change were likely to be more productive than this Committee meeting.

In other words, the resident thinks the committee is ineffective, as indeed we do. What has it achieved of note? Where is an Annual Report for this group clearly describing achievements and their associated costs? A sentence contained 'Wetherby in Villages, clean river group'. They mean 'Wetherby & Villages Clean River Group'. Low standard of minuting again.

Welcome to Wetherby (minuted by Barry Riley, Deputy Clerk) —There had been a delay in the printing of the visitor leaflet. No reason given. Another example of poor minuting. Why can't they provide any detail? To hide the embarrassment of incompetence? How long has this simple leaflet taken to produce, over a year? More on this leaflet in next Issue.

No progress on Wetherby Pride No reason given. No consultation on social media. Suggestion of screening Glastonbury. Hopefully they will consult us on this suggestion.



No Progress or Consultation yet

Cllrs surgeries every Thursday between 11 & 1 at the Town Hall, see image. There was no mention of the success or otherwise of this in any of the meeting minutes.

There was no response from Councillors or Town Hall staff to any of our comments in the last edition of WFP.

We do not expect too much from our newer councillors as they find their feet in this Conservative-dominated Council. It will not be easy to make changes.

But we hope they will focus on the basics as soon as possible. One is asking why the Town Clerk or Meeting Chairs do not respond to our legitimate questions. The other is asking why there are low standards in a) minuting meetings as detailed above and b) the dull Council website.

We find it unbelievable that nobody is given clear ACTIONS WITH DEADLINES in meetings. No wonder there is so little progress if nobody is responsible for anything. And we all know joint responsibility means no responsibility.



Two Banners Made for these Meetings - No Mention of How They are Going in Any Minutes

Local Author Written New Book about the Wharfe

Johno Ellison from Boston Spa was interviewed recently by Cathy Killick for BBC Look North about his new book. It is called "Walking the Wharfe - An Ode to a Yorkshire River". We asked him to tell us more:

"I grew up in Boston Spa and have always been a bit enchanted with the River Wharfe as I have lots of different connections to it. My family come from different places along the river; I was based at RAF Church Fenton near the river downstream when I was younger and I even worked in the (former) Three Legs pub in Wetherby for a while.

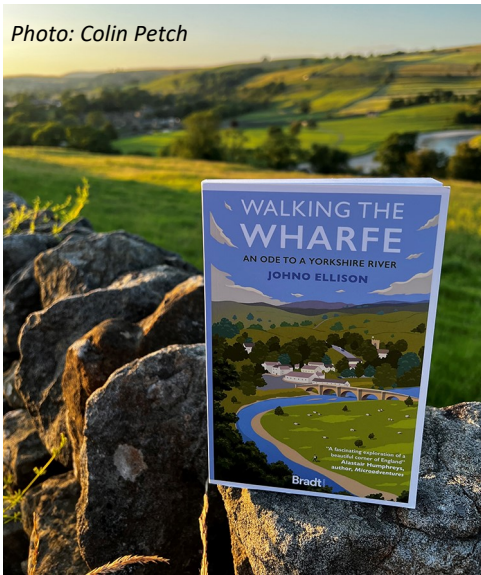
So I decided to walk the entire length of the river. My wife's a teacher (she's from Menston, also near the river, upstream) and she got offered a job abroad about ten years ago. So I thought that the river walk would be a good way for me to send off Yorkshire, and see its beauty for one last time.

I did the walk and we duly moved to Kuala Lumpur but then, a few years ago, I found an old book by a Victorian author from



Johno on BBC Look North

Photo: Colin Petch



Leeds, named

Edmund Bogg. He had completed the same route as me, but at the end of the 1800s. I devoured his book and then I developed the fascination again. I decided to rewalk the route again, retracing Edmund Bogg's footsteps from 120 years earlier and seeing what has changed and what's stayed the same.

I spent five days walking about 95 miles (the river is about 65 miles but I had lots of detours to see interesting things nearby) from the Wharfe's Mouth in the flat Vale of York, all the way up in the wild Yorkshire Dales where a tiny stream bubbles out of the bleak moor side on Cam Fell. I was carrying a tent and wild-camping along the way, just laying my head in out-of-the-way woods wherever I could. I found that although a lot of physical things had changed (for example, the RAF Church Fenton airbase was all fields when Edmund Bogg did his walk - planes had only just been invented and the Wright Brothers did their first flight around the time his book came out), you still had this Yorkshire warmth and wit running through history.

Halfway through the walk I found myself walking into Appletreewick - in the Dales - in the middle of a storm with blowing wind and sideways rain. As I walked into the village it appeared totally deserted and pitch black, with no light or people anywhere. Eventually I came to the pub, which also looked totally closed down. Thankfully the door swung open and as I walked in what felt like the whole village were inside, all illuminated by candlelight. They all went silent and turned to face me, like some kind

of horror film, but then the landlady quickly explained that there'd been a powercut all along the valley, as she pressed a pint of hand-pulled ale into my hand and offered me a place by the roaring fire. A true Yorkshire welcome!"

This is the second book about Yorkshire we have featured (previously the excellent Yorkshire - Ancient Nation, Future Province by Colin Speakman). Johno's book sounds like a darned good read too and well worthy of consideration for the Christmas list.

We wish Johno well and hope the book is a great success. Both books can be bought from Reading Roots & Castlegate Stationers in Wetherby. Johno's website is www.jhnoellison.com



The admin of Wetherby Grumbler Facebook group (27K + members) have been doing some strange things lately. As reported previously, they suddenly stopped us promoting WFP on publication day because of complaints from the Wetherby Mafia, and they refused to say what the complaints were about (probably us grumbling which is ironic given the group's name). Even more bizarre was them posting to the group a clearly personal message soon after!! The irony again! You have to laugh. Instead of responding to the Editor's questions they put it in the public domain. He did not mind and stands by every word (as he does for everything he writes privately or otherwise).

The post created a feeding frenzy for many of the WFP critics, I've been told. I was getting married abroad so did not read any of the responses to my post, which started:

"Vicki & Melissa, Apologies for spelling your name wrong in the latest WFP, Vicki." It was posted on 16 August.

After many comments Admin then took the post down (no explanation why; was it because they realised it was foolish to publish it?). Many of those comments could have been defamatory and contained lies. But Vicki and Melissa have refused to send the Editor any of those comments. I informed them defamation is a serious matter and they accused me of playing games. *What??*

So the Editor is asking our faithful readers if they can remember any of the comments, which clearly cross the line between childish insults and doing reputational harm. And any unlikely 'facts' that were put forward. Please email us. *Thank you*

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

MP Alec Shelbrooke - has he given up communicating with public?

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13 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/



Very Old Photo
Alec still uses on
Facebook



No Tweets in June.

Just the one in July.

No Tweets in August.

Alec says few use

Twitter so go to

Facebook. So we do:

facebook

Just the one post in August:

Congratulating students on exam results

Surely Alec & his team can do better than this

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

Three Peaks Challenge for Guide Dogs by Specsavers

Ten staff of Specsavers in Wetherby have recently completed the gruelling Three Peaks challenge to raise money for Guide Dogs.

Throughout the year, the staff have held various other fundraising events for Guide Dogs, but the Three Peaks was their biggest challenge yet.

The 24 mile route through the beautiful Yorkshire Dales National Park, takes in the peaks of Pen-y-Ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough (a combined ascent of more than 1,800m) .

Amelia from Specsavers said "Guide Dogs is a natural charity for us to support. Working in the world of optics we understand and appreciate the important role that guide dogs play and how they can help visually impaired people to go about their daily lives as normally as possible."

"We know that the charity relies on fundraising and donations to deliver their life changing work. That's why we decided to raise money for them."

Nicola Ridgway, Community Fundraising Manager for Guide Dogs in Harrogate explained "To date, thanks to their efforts and the generosity of their customers, a fantastic £1,340 has been raised, and we are very grateful to Specsavers for supporting us in this way."

If you would like to support Specsavers in their fundraising, go to

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/specsaverswetherbyguidedogs>

or for more information on how to fundraise for Guide Dogs please go to

www.guidedogs.org.uk



3 Wetherby Staff & Local Guide Dogs volunteer Helen Louise McGrath with Guide Dog Burley

Surprise at Gourmet Cafe closing



No notice with information or a thank you to loyal customers

Many were surprised at the closing of this popular café on the Shambles. There was no notice on the windows or doors but it was confirmed by the owner, Karen Brittain, 62, in the Yorkshire Evening Post. She says the town is 'soulless' because of the chains who have destroyed it. Karen, now retired in Spain, praised her staff but did not thank her loyal customers, some of whom would have been going there for 17 years.

Maxine Whitworth of the nearby Bootlace shop reflected said "It's a real shame to see it closed" as some of her customers went there and the staff were lovely people. She added "It's really sad to see so many business's closing in Wetherby. We need to support our independents and keep Wetherby the busy beautiful town it is. We appreciate everyone who shops with us. Thank you."

In the next issue, we ask what local businesses are doing to help themselves eg special offers, being different from the competition, websites, using social media, the community newsletter and websites to attract customers. Are they at least partly to blame for their own demise?

Local businessman promotes new business, whilst assuring us of payment

The last issue featured the behaviour of David Birks of Eternal Peace Funeral Plans, now Dakota Legal Services Ltd. He has owed the Wetherby Free Press the amount of £220 since Nov 2022.

On the same day as publication, the Editor noticed a leaflet, right in the Swan & Talbot promoting Dakota Services Ltd. Mr Birk's 'new' business also has an impressive website.

We wrote to Mr Birks: "Mr Birks, you have a right to reply to today's article in W'by Free Press. I notice today you can afford a website and leaflets but not a (£5 a month) payment plan. Are you going to pay this debt?"

He replied: "I said I am going to pay it - hopefully next week."

Twenty-six days later nothing has appeared in our bank account and there's been no further contact from Mr Birks.



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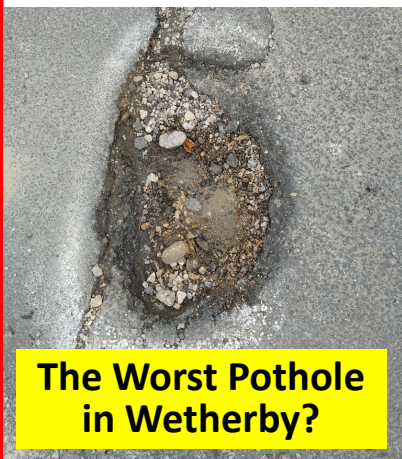
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- FAMILY ASSET PROTECTION TRUST
- FUNERAL PLANS

For a free, no obligation consultation please email david@dakotalegalservices.co.uk or call 07808 669337

Dakota LEGAL SERVICES

A Reader Writes: Warning to all motorists who use the Wilderness Car Park



"There is a very large and deep pothole at the top of the exit road to the Wilderness Car Park.

I suspect it is difficult for motorists to see because it is at the top of the hill as you come round the bend.

The majority of the cars leaving the car park are hitting it and every time I hear it I worry what damage they might be doing to their cars.

It has been reported to Leeds City Council who may already be aware as it has a white line painted around it.

Do take care."

Thank you. The Editor has NOT managed to avoid this one, twice. It should be top priority for Leeds City Council. Let's hope visitor's to the town do not have a bad experience and tell everyone.



Wetherby & Boston Spa Men's Forum 2023

13-Sep	Susan Deal	Going Out For A Pint
20-Sep	Malcolm Johnson	Charting The 1970's
27-Sep	Christine Leveridge	The Story Of Halifax Zoo
04-Oct	Wendy Eccles	Pioneering Men
11-Oct	Neil Hanson	The Ticket Collector From Belarus
18-Oct	John Gilleghan	Captain James Cook
25-Oct	John Clithero	Guy Fawkes - Hero or Villain?
01-Nov	Peter Palmer	The Battle Of Towton
08-Nov	Denise Adlard	The Brontes of Haworth
15-Nov	Graham Read	Let's Go Reporting
22-Nov	Chris Helme	The World Of Brass Bands
29-Nov	John Lyte	Abide With Me Part 1
06-Dec	Jane McKeown	Thanksgiving
13-Dec	The Engine Shed	Christmas lunch

Meetings take place

9.45am

Wednesdays

St. James' Scout Hut

Church Street

Wetherby



More Details at www.mensforum.wetherby.info/ or call Mike Earle, Chairman on 07526 007508

Send Your News, Views & Events to: **9** WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Statement regarding Financial/Business Status of WFP & Editor's Business

The Editor has addressed this before but we'll repeat it here to answer a recent question on social media.

"The newsletter is published on my business website for PK Marketing, because it costs me nothing to do so. The newsletter is free to the public and takes up a lot of time. Of course, if advertisers want to promote themselves to our large readership, there is no reason why I should not make some money from that, like our dreadful local paper does, given how much time and effort the WFP takes to produce. I am not a charity and have bills to pay.

But our critics may be pleased to know that I have never made a penny from the venture. The satisfaction of informing the public of how those in authority behave (and how our public money is being spent) must be payment enough. And it is.

You can clearly see from the current number of adverts that it is not enough to cover printing costs. Hence our move to printing it ourselves and becoming less frequent. Hence, describing it as 'not for profit' is 100% accurate.

I am a self-employed sole trader with the name PK Marketing. Details at www.pkmarketing1.com. Nothing to hide but if you find anything suspicious or dodgy, please feel free to tell us and the world.

Social media user and Wetherby News reader Steve Cooper carried out some research on me in May 2022 and found another business called PK Marketing in the UK, a limited company. He asked on Nextdoor social media community whether my using this name is 'classed as a criminal act or just a civil law tort'? Despite his contacts in the Lions, over a year later I have heard nothing further about this - no knock on the door from the police or a solicitor's letter. It would be nice if Mr Cooper could explain why he asked this question and why there has been no follow up. At the time we asked him to write an article about his concerns for the WFP. He declined.

There are 2 'Meet the Editors' in the coming months and I hope Mr Cooper, and anyone else who seems to have a problem with the Editor / WFP, will come along in person and discuss their issues in a civilised manner in a safe environment.

People should realise that common sense and the truth will always win in the end. I sleep soundly at night because I know I have done nothing wrong. The WFP has written tens of thousands of words and nobody has sued us, or even threatened to. That is because we stick to the facts, provide honest opinion (based on those facts) and, of course, our articles are in the public interest.



From the American Version of The Office

Despite our offer of printing anything individuals or organisations send us, there's a conservative, small-minded, over-sensitive rump of our town who will not engage with us and many try to shoot the messenger instead. We wish them luck with their strategy but the good folk of this town can see right through it. Those who try to stop us publicising the WFP anonymously we call the Wetherby Mafia. One day we will all be accountable for our actions/inaction.

We welcome constructive criticism but it is surely churlish to complain about the format or appearance of WFP, or other such trivial matters, when it costs you nothing. If things like that upset you so much, please don't read it. Constructive criticism should focus on the content ie the real issues we raise. That is what really matters. Anything else is distraction from those issues.

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 a single 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 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. Do you still read it? If so, please send us your views.

Issue of 31 Aug '23: News Items - 1 Letters - 0

Item about Sandringham Park. No additional info to what could be found on social media for free.

Issue of 7 Sep '23: News Items - 1 Letters - 0

Item about Stockeld Park (in N Yorkshire) and how well it is apparently doing.

£31K Job Up for Grabs

We should be grateful that this job is available to all, and not internal only, like a previous post.

We wonder why they've changed the 'Deputy' to 'Assistant'.

Let's hope the quality of candidates are high. See pages 2 & 6 for reasons why.

Wetherby deserves the best, especially considering the Council Tax precept increase we paid this year.

WELCOME TO WETHERBY
AWARD WINNING TOWN

WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL
ASSISTANT CLERK
RECRUITMENT

£31,099 PER ANNUM
37 HOURS PER WEEK
WETHERBY TOWN HALL, LS22 6NE
22 DAYS HOLIDAY + BANK HOLIDAYS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.WETHERBY.CO.UK/COUNCIL_NEWS_AND_NOTICES_3765.ASPX
CLERK@WETHERBY.CO.UK

CLOSING DATE - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2023

Let's hope the interviewers recognise quality candidates



Sad to hear Gnonto wanted out and trained separately from the others but the transfer window has passed so he's staying for the time being. Some say he was 'badly advised'. He played in the last game at home to Sheff Wed and was denied a penalty in a goalless draw.

By all accounts Leeds dominated the game and should have taken one of their many chances.



United's kits in Trinity Centre

So far it's 3 draws, 1 loss and 1 win for the Championship team.

No game on weekend of 9/10 Sep.

We'd love to hear about your experience visiting Millwall on Sun 17 Sep.

Is the extreme rivalry (violence) as bad as ever?

Millwall v **Utd** on Sun 17 Sep at 12.00 **sky sports**

Hull City v **Utd** on Wed 20 Sep at 19.45

Utd v Watford on Sat 23 Sep at 15.00

The Rhinos put in a strong performance at Hull FC winning 12-28.



Lisone had not scored for Leeds before but scored a hat-trick of tries in this game. The Rhinos struck first against the side equal on points in the Super League. They were never behind to the home side who missed nearly all of their conversions.

With only 3 more games to go (2 against top sides) it looks highly unlikely the Rhinos will achieve a play-off place.



Rhinos v Wigan Warriors on Sat 9 Sep at 14.45 **sky sport mix**

Catalans Dragons v **Rhinos** on Sat 16 Sep at 17.00 **sky sports**

Rhinos v Castleford Tigers Fri 22 Sep at 20.00

Your Community Newsletter Editor: *Paul Kirby*
at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

CONTACT US Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM
Tel: 07840 862861 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. 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

Please donate online at

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

to cover printing costs *Thank You*

The British Library at Boston Spa keep copies in their catalogue. The WFP lives forever!

Adverts **50%** of *On Your Doorstep* rates:

1/8 A4 page (size A) - £25 or £80 for 4 issues

1/4 A4 page (size B/C) - £40 or £130 for 4 issues

1/2 A4 page (size D) - £60 or £200 for 4

Sponsorship on front page - £25

We can design your ad FOR FREE
Just send us the details & images

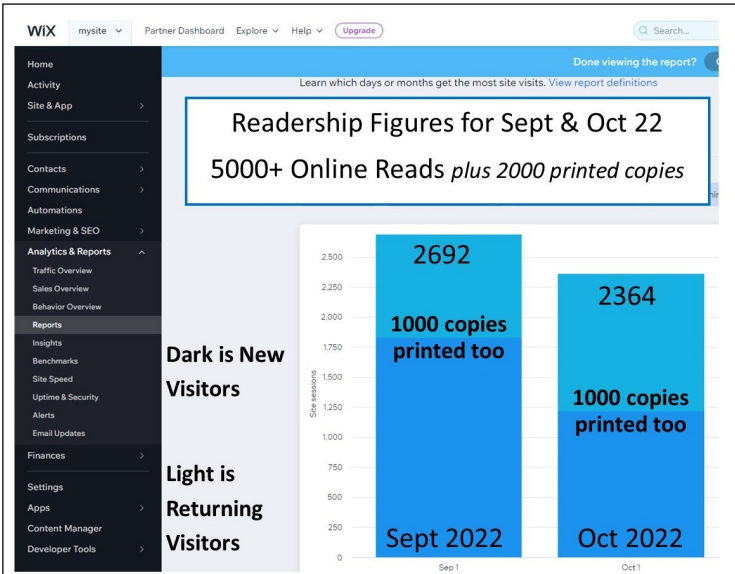


Next Issue 51 - Fri 29 Sep '23



Wetherby Free Press
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity
News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



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.

In 2022 we Supported 25 Local Organisations & Charities

Send us your

to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023