



Your 'Spade is a Spade'
Community
Newsletter
with REAL News
& Views

WETHERBY

ISSUE 94 - Aug 26

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Wetherby is 'back in the 50s', says Ex-Resident

A resident writes how disappointed he and his wife are with the town they've lived in for most of their lives. They blame many of the town's organisations and Wetherby Town Council. They can see no change in the near future so have done the sensible thing and found somewhere else to live. Wetherby could be so much better with a decent Town Council and creative people in the top organisations, they say. The couple write:

"Don't get us wrong, there are some truly wonderful people in this town - selfless folk who spend their time and effort freely for the good of all - volunteers in organisations like Wetherby in Bloom, Civic Society, Litter Pickers, Arts Festival, Foodbank, charity shop workers etc. And our friends and neighbours are all good, decent people who we will miss. And the people we met in clubs we joined and in our voluntary roles.

But reading the content of the Free Press (FP), there are clearly many in positions of authority who are lazy, stupid, arrogant, self-interested or unable to do a good job. And it looks like there are one or two very disturbed individuals who speak a lot of rubbish online. FP covers a lot of what they get up to but we're sure there's more.

These people don't just waste public money, OUR money, they have held this town back for decades. They are a clique and are most definitely conservative in nature. They haven't any imagination or creativity, to promote this town and get more visitors in our shops. As the Free Press points out, the 'Welcome to Wetherby' cte are a joke. It is people like that who have kept the

town like it was back in the '50s.

The perfect example of the lack of interest from Cllrs is the 'Tourist Info' sign right outside the Town Hall. It's been there for years misleading every single visitor who sees it. Not a single Cllr has been bothered to get it removed or replaced. Shame on all of them but particularly the Welcome to



Useless sign - ignored by WTC for many years

Wetherby members and Chairs.

*None of these people are accountable. They ignore decent questions from residents and are a disgrace. They do it because they can and because they answer to nobody. Normal sensible people should get involved and take on the blue clique in this town. The so called political opposition are useless, you can't rely on them. Or Tories who say they'll improve things but don't do b****r all. People have to make a fuss, don't be*

We are responsible for our inaction, too.

scared. Having said that, we're as guilty as anybody for not doing enough so, hands up, it's partly our fault too.

Cont'd on page 8

good luck!
we will miss you

Back to the
50's

Green Cllr Smashes Target



Councillor breaks national fundraising record with charity head shave

The target of £5,000 was beaten even before the brave deed was done. We congratulate and thank Cllr Arnold Warneken of Tockwith for taking part in 'Brave the Shave' and raising a staggering **£17,700 for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

"I'm not brave, just daft" insists Arnold. "The truly brave person here is my wife Alex, who has lived with MS for 20+ years and not let it hold her back. And then be told she has Stage 4 terminal cancer, yet she has not wavered, she is as solid as a rock." Arnold is just a £300 off the £18K target, so if you would like to support his incredible feat, go to:

www.bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/ and search for Arnold Warneken

Since the *Free Press* began we have not been aware of any of the 25+ Wetherby Town Councillors doing anything similar for charity. If they do, we will publicise it in the same way.

Shorter issue than usual as the *Free Press* team deserve a good break away from the madness.

Our September issue celebrates 5 years of bringing you real news and promoting the good people of this town. We are learning a new desktop publisher so please help us by sending in articles with text for us to simply cut & paste, along with a good image.



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



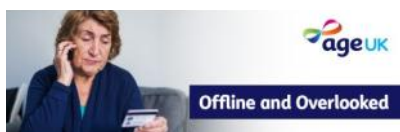
We cater for the 1000s of **DIGITALLY EXCLUDED** with a **Full Copy at Library, Phoenix Café**

& promo copies at *Morrisons, Pubs, Cafés, Dentists, Care Homes, Churches, Takeaways etc*

Plse send your News, Views & Events to: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Don't Miss Out - Join our Large Mailing List by emailing: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

We Don't Forget the many 1000s of people who are offline - those who do not have (or want) internet access or a smartphone.



We ask all organisations to include a phone no. and put information on PAPER eg leaflets, posters.



* I have a pet tree. It's like having a pet dog except the bark is quieter.

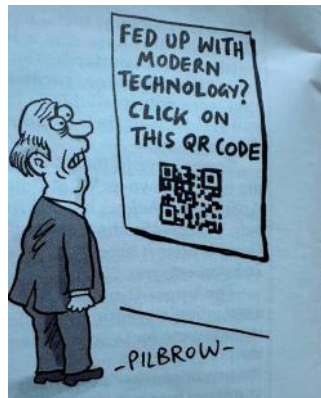
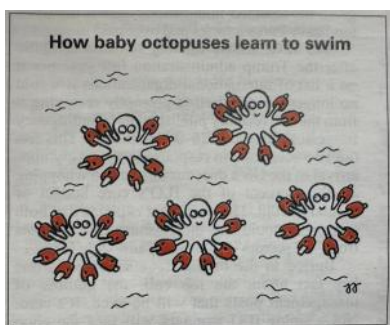
* What do you call an

army of cows? The milidairy.

* Two slices of bread got married. The reception was amazing, until someone decided to toast the bride and groom.

* What did the poet say when he stepped into the herb garden? It's rhyme thyme.

* I never should've taken that job as a dragon tamer. I got fired almost immediately.



* Don't be afraid to buy a boomerang online. They have a 100% return policy.

* Mick Jagger once tried to become a math teacher, but he didn't last very long. Apparently, he couldn't get no stats or fractions.

* Tripped and hit my head on a pillow. Think I've got concussion.

More funnies on back page



Would you enjoy singing wonderful music with a friendly group of people, with professional guidance from our conductor, Charlie?

Please come and join us for our open rehearsal on



Mon 14 Sept
at St James' Church,
Wetherby at
7.30

when we are starting work on Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*? We will make you very welcome, find you someone to sit with and give you a score.

Contact secretary@wetherbychoral.org.uk for details

Winners of Free GYS Tickets Have a Day To Remember



GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

A local man with learning difficulties and his carer enjoyed a day out at the biggest and best show in Yorkshire, thanks to the *Wetherby Free Press*.

There were many worthy entrants and the *Free Press* team had a difficult decision to make but mother Deborah made a very strong case for George and his carer.

She explained that George has had a difficult time trying to make friends at a day care setting despite trying very hard. She said "He has applied for jobs but no one will take him on due to needing extra support. She continued "I think this would really boost him, a lovely day out with his carer to go somewhere I have never been able to take him to."



After the show Deborah thanked us and said "George really loved seeing the show jumping, the massive combine harvester and a fantastic bee keeping demonstration! The highlight was the sheepdog demonstration when one sheep decided it wasn't going to be told what to do by the dog! He came home arms full of honey, cat food, some cheese and a pair of wellies!!"

We are so pleased that George and his carer had a great day out.

Town Council Can Do Whatever They Want

Communications Cttee that Won't Communicate!

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP



Wetherby Town Council

Still no word from Town Clerk or Chair of Cttee as to why the Comms Cttee has disappeared

Last heard from in July '25

We highlight it but nothing else is possible, folks!

Yes, sad but true, the Conservatives and Town Hall Clerk are literally UNTOUCHABLE.

Nobody monitors this or any other Town Council, apart from financial audits (which they arrange). Cllrs & Clerk know they can get away with anything, and take ridiculous, inexplicable decisions, some in secret, without any recourse or accountability, as we have proved many times.

We informed the authorities of the scandalous case of them not telling us what has happened to the Comms Cttee, along with other serious issues regarding staffing. The authorities can do nothing. Great system we have! Shaming them and voting them out is all we can do.



Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 8 Sep at 7pm

www.wetherbytowncouncil.gov.uk

01937 583584 admin@wetherby.co.uk



As well as the *Wetherby Free Press* page on **facebook**



there's the *Wetherby Deserves Better* page too.

*** Both are independently run from the newsletter**

TADCASTER ALBION AFC
TAFC
COME SUPPORT TADCASTER ALBION
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CLUB

TAFC FIRST TEAM
 HOME MATCHES SATURDAYS 3PM
 AND TUESDAYS NIGHT 745PM
 ADULTS £9. CONCESSIONS £6. 15 & UNDER FREE
 BAR AND FOOD AVAILABLE

TAFC LADIES TEAMS
 MATCHES SUNDAYS
 FREE ENTRY
 BAR AND FOOD AVAILABLE

FIND US AT
 TADCASTER ALBION
 LS24 9AY

FOLLOW SOCIAL MEDIA OR VISIT WWW.TADALBION.COM FOR UPDATES

Wetherby Foodbank

HELLO AUGUST!

August 2026 Foodbank Wish List

- Instant coffee
- Tinned cold meats – corned beef, ham
- Meat & fish pastes
- Tinned stew
- Tinned chilli con carne
- Tinned custard
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Sweets & chocolate
- Instant hot chocolate
- Tinned peas/ carrots/sweetcorn
- Tinned fruit
- Deodorants (roll-on)
- Laundry liquid/powder/sheets (small)
- Or... make a donation via our website

Thank you!



The *Free Press* thanks all the many volunteers in the Wetherby & Boston Spa area for their fantastic work



WCS WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY
 Proudly Serving Our Town

Bashing the Balsam - Part 2

Following on from Wetherby Civic Society's highly successful annual "Balsam Bashing" work beside the River Wharfe on the Ings at the end of July, a follow on event has been arranged on **Wednesday, 26 August at 7pm** meeting beside the river at the Leisure Centre car park.

Chairman, Peter Catton, commented, "At our last Bashing, we removed a large amount of this invasive annual weed, which will prevent it reseeding for 2027. However, there is still more to remove and we feel it is worth the effort to have another meet to further restrict the Balsam along the Ings. It is great to see so many people working together to improve our environment and encourage native wild flowers to spread."

The Victorians brought Himalayan Balsam to Britain because of its pretty flowers. As often happens, it escaped the gardens, to become a pest along river banks, overwhelming native species. However, the plant is easily pulled up, which stops its seeds spreading. Everyone is invited to come and help control this pest but because some of the Balsam is intermingled with stinging nettles, arms and legs should be covered and perhaps gloves worn. Obviously suitable footwear to suit the weather conditions should be worn. No tools are needed as the Balsam will all be hand pulled. Please be aware of the dangers of being near the river and we do not pull Balsam too close to the water. The more Balsam pulled; the more wild flowers can grow back."

Boston Spa Methodist Church

Lunchtime Concert

1pm, Friday 11th September 2026

Adele Bracegirdle
 Flute

Ben Attfield, Piano

TICKETS £6
 Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

The Beach at Collingham and Linton

Local historian Philip Powell has written a slightly tongue in cheek piece about recreational use of the Wharfe at Collingham and Linton over the years and the history of The Beach. He says it is the subject of much local controversy with people deeply divided over its use. Here it is:

The stretch of the River Wharfe between Collingham and Linton has been used for swimming, fishing and boating for well over a century, with use increasing since the North Eastern Railway opened Collingham Bridge station in 1876. The line put a broad shingle margin near Linton Bridge, still called "the Pebbly Beach," within easy reach of inner-city Leeds. Day trippers travelled out by train to picnic, swim and camp. Rowing boats, skiffs and punts plied the water through the interwar years, and anglers from Leeds and Bradford fished it too, coarse fishermen through clubs such as Wetherby & District Angling Club, while fly fishing upstream stayed a genteel, members-only affair. After the line closed in 1964, the pattern held: families came by car or bus instead of train, and the old station became today's Beck Wood car park.

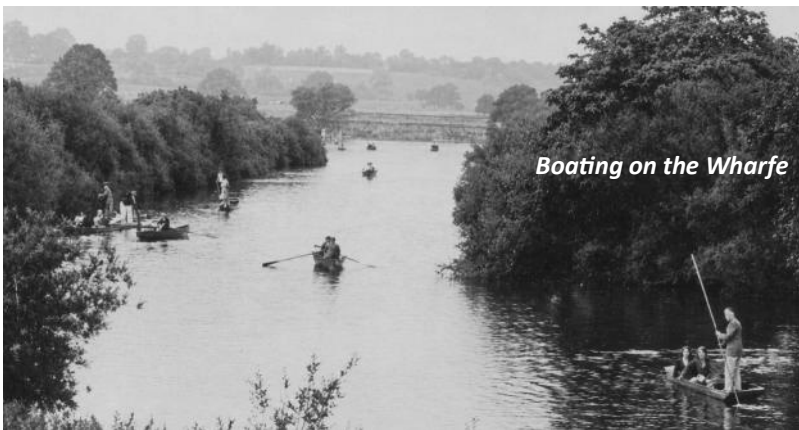
In the post-war decades, Bank Holiday weekends saw tents pitched in the riverside meadows and a village constable patrolling at night to keep moral order, as the late local historian Ken Jones used to recall. That popularity has always carried a cost. Recorded drownings go back to Thomas Hornshaw in 1874, staggering back from the Windmill, and include Cecil Oddy in 1933, David Prior in 1966, brothers Nigel and Richard Spate in 1971, Chris Hall in 1974, five-year-old David Lizeth in 1987 and Adam Walker in 1993. Each tragedy brought promises of better warning signs, and the safety measures in place today.

That pattern has not faded. Stretches of the Wharfe near Collingham have been popularised by wild swimming enthusiasts online, and swimmers still gather along the 350 metres below Linton Bridge. Storm damage to the bridge in 2015, and the £5.1 million repair that followed, left an unplanned legacy: stone from the contractors' construction platform has drifted downstream ever since. The Beach has grown.



The Railway Bridge and The Beach

That growth has sharpened an old argument, one that echoes the older divide between coarse fishermen and fly fishermen: who gets to use the water, and on whose terms. On the Linton side of the river, where million pound houses sit above the water, some residents now want the adjoining Beck Wood closed off and access to the beach restricted altogether. Litter after hot weekends, anti-social behaviour, dog and human fouling in the woods, and traffic jammed along the narrow approach to Linton Bridge are the complaints most often raised in angry social media posts, alongside the ever-present risk of drowning. **Older residents of Collingham, who remember the village's welcome to day trippers from Leeds** as a point of pride, see something else behind the complaints: an attempt by well-off newcomers to close off a river spot that was always the property and pride of the Parish. The unease and controversy are not new. What has changed is



Boating on the Wharfe

the volume: this summer, with weeks of hot unusually weather, the beach has filled daily with swimmers, picnickers and barbecues, and the dispute has grown sharper than at any point in its history. The name The Beach has outlasted every attempt to formalise or restrict the place: unofficial, unfenced, and now more contested than ever.

This is a summary of a 19-page article which can be found by clicking on the button below this page.

We thank him for sending us this very interesting piece about the area's greatest asset - the River Wharfe. More of his writing will be in the next Free Press, where the subject will be the bombing of Collingham.

Will September Finally See Action on Bus Blocking?

Bus blocking at the Wetherby Bus Station exit on Castle Gate has been going on for at least 5 years. In that time 1000s of passengers have been inconvenienced by late buses. In that time Conservative-dominated Wetherby Town Council have mentioned it only once in their meetings.

We are grateful to Green Party Cllr Penny Stables of Leeds City Council (LCC) for keeping us informed of developments. She had a meeting with LCC Highways on 13 August and was told they are hoping to install the new "No loading at any time" restriction on Castle Gate by the end of September, as well as the new disabled bays around Wetherby town centre.

*Let's hope there are clear words painted on the road, like 'Bus Sta Exit' or 'No Parking' and the double yellow (though they should be red) lines re-painted. There should be clear signage, leaving delivery vehicles and blue badge holders in no doubt that parking is not allowed **under any circumstances.***



The first of many incidents of bus-blocking the Free Press have highlighted since Nov 2021

Mike Completes Leeds Endure 24 for Charity



72 year-old local resident Mike Bosomworth has certainly had his health challenges over the last two years, but he thought it was time for an activity challenge to raise funds once again for the Brain Research Appeal, a linked charity to the *Leeds Hospital Charity*. It raises funds for research into neurological disorders including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and migraine. These conditions are not only life changing for the sufferers, but also for their families.

The Leeds neurology research team have now started working on an exciting new type of research – multi-arm multi-stage trials known as MAMS trials. This type of trial tests several drugs at the same time, rather than an individual drug and will be a faster way of bringing new drugs to treat patients.

Mike says "If you were a sufferer or a carer that would give you real hope of better treatment, faster. That really is exciting!"

He continues "This rapid increase in new trials means that we are raising funds to appoint a Research Career Development Fellow, to enable a medical doctor in training to develop research skills working on the new MAMS trials in Leeds.

Mike thought what bigger challenge might there be, than to try and run/jog/walk a mile for every year of my life within 24 hours at the *Leeds Endure 24*.

And that is exactly what he did recently.

75 miles in 23 hours 36 minutes

Mike told us it was the most difficult 24 hour challenge that he had ever undertaken. We can believe it and send him many congratulations.

He is only £200 off his target of £3000. If you can help, please visit his page at www.justgiving.com/page/mike-bosomworth-4 or scan the QR code.

Mike would like to send a sincere thank you to all his supporters.



Your view

We publish ALL letters sent. Unless they are clearly defamatory. We will even print those who spout nonsense or offensive views (against us or any of our many supporters). We trust our readers to judge such letters for what they are. Yet our harshest critics have yet to send us an email or meet us face to face.

Resident Makes Suggestions to Councillors About Road Repairs



Article in Conservative publication 'Wetherby Ward Matters'

An irate resident asks many questions:

“ How long was the meeting? Where are the minutes? What expenses were claimed? What a ***** waste of time!

These are not potholes, it is a sign of previous substandard surfacing having been eroded over time & why do councillors have to inspect the road? - this was and should be the job of Leeds Highways, proactively inspecting the state of their network and arranging repairs (or are those days long gone?)

This is their role to sort! A better picture would have been of them in hi-viz jackets, next to a road resurfacing machine actually doing the work!

The meeting should have been in the council arranging to get the work done! ”

Wetherby to the Dales Every Sunday (& Bank Hol Mon) til 18 Oct



Dales Rover Tickets

£10 adult
£18 group (up to 10 adults and 2 children)

Buy from the driver any Sunday for a day's unlimited travel

Max single fare £3

More info at www.dalesbus.org or leaflets on bus



A Review of the Newspaper by Conservative MP, Leeds City & Town Cllrs

Firstly, let's congratulate the Conservatives for producing something for the many 1000s of residents who want nothing to do with Facebook or the internet in general. Age UK call them the 'offline and overlooked' (the *Free Press* also has a campaign to keep the offline informed, see page 2, which our MP / Councillors have shown no interest in supporting). The Tories know that many of these residents will be their voters and only have the *Free Press* to tell them what is going on. So they spend time and money on this publication.

This publication gives us the opportunity to see what the party of Kemi Badenoch think and what their priorities are. So we thank them for that. But we do wonder why you can produce a newsletter when the Wetherby Town Council cannot - even though it has a Communications Officer. Perhaps the Chair of the Comms Cttee (if it still exists, see page 2) and Mayor, Cllr Connor Mulhall could explain.

Space for a nice smiling face not used

Not just 'distributed by' but written and paid for by them

An Old Story - The Conservatives have been taking credit for this for a long time now, see below. How much they influenced the decisions is not clear. No mention of Leeds City Council or any other representative involved gives an unfair and unbalanced view. Is this the most important issue for most Wetherby folk?

This 'newspaper' is just a piece of propaganda, and a poor one at that. It's dull and contains little if any hard facts to make us want to support them. There's no mention of any non-Tory Town Cllr or Leeds City Councillor Penny Stables who works very hard on all these issues (we know that as she sends us the evidence and wants to be accountable). The Tories have a poster boy - Connor Mulhall - who is a very busy chappie but does not have the time to address the serious issues of accountability we put to him eg the disappearance of his Communications Cttee. He ignores our emails about that and every other issue we raise. What is quite astounding is the lack of prominence given to the people who make a real difference in this town. It's all them, them, them (with the same 3 councillors dominating the paper). It seems self-centred and ungrateful. That's why some organisations do not want to work with them. For example 'Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd' exists mainly to keep an eye on housing and large business developments (because they knew the Town Council could not do the job properly). Yet they are not mentioned once in the piece on 'speculative development'. There is no hint of the difficulties many residents face in this ongoing cost-of-living crisis. It is clear to us that this is the party who want to appeal to middle and upper class voters only (who own a car). This publication gives us no clue as to how much work our Conservative Leeds City Councillors actually do or what influence they have. Little on both counts, we suspect.

What local people are saying...

In the 'Local People' part, they had to use the Mayor & Tory Cllr! The paper already features him in most photos. Sign of desperation? Why couldn't they find more than two non-Cllrs to use?

Tory Priorities - Cars & Roads, NOT buses

Notice the same 3 faces in the images - Cllrs Mulhall, Lamb & Harrington

Review Welcomed

Road Repairs: Progress Made, More to Do

Prioritising Road Safety in Our Villages

Buses are not mentioned once. Nothing about the bus station exit problem with vehicles blocking it, see page 4. Nothing about bus franchising or the poor standards of WYCA (board member Cllr Lamb). But there are 4 articles about the roads and car parking.

Irrefutable evidence that Wetherby Town Council is a political Council

Cllr Harry Chapman

Years ago Cllr Chapman told us this Council is not political and has never withdrawn his statement (clearly utter nonsense). Why did he pretend it wasn't political?

Wetherby Mafia Continue to Try and Destroy Free Speech



Whether you agree with us or not, surely everybody agrees we all have a right to free speech. Obviously a minority in Wetherby do not. These people in the Wetherby Mafia do not want you to read about them or their friends.

So they frequently take all the one-page promos from our displays in Morrisons. And they recently took the permanent A4 sign inside the café display - see photo.

These sad people will one day be caught in the act and we will tell you exactly who

they are and who they are connected to.

They are clearly frightened of the truth getting out but believe us - Truth Always Wins.

We wish they would set up their own community newsletter. Why don't they? (perhaps the answer is obvious).



Part of our Display in Morrisons Removed

Unanswered Questions So Far in 2026 - showing WTC is NOT Open & Accountable



Norma Harrington
Conservative

The Free Press published the questions below in June's Issue 92 - No response from either person yet. The tax-paying public deserve answers. We publish the most serious and important questions again until they make an effort to answer at least one of them. Ignoring questions in the hope they go away is not a professional (or democratic) way to deal with serious issues.



Dianne Rickaby
Town Clerk

Wetherby Town Council (WTC)'s Chair of Staffing Ctte, Cllr Norma Harrington (NH) and the Town Clerk, Dianne Rickaby have not responded to / commented on the following:

- 1 why we were not given any hint of the contents of a 'Confidential Report by Town Clerk' (Issue 87)
- 2 why 3 Council staff were present at a *Welcome to Wetherby* mtg and whether the Council is overstaffed (I87)
- 3 why the staff organisation chart lacks vital information (I88)
- 4 why staff costs have DOUBLED in 3 years and now cost us almost half the £725K budget (I89 Extra)
- 5 why staff costs are now hidden from us in their official documentation (I89 Extra & I90)
- 6 why the Council cannot keep staff - the Admin Officer lasted just 1 year. Recruitment is costly (I90)
- 7 why January's Staff meeting minutes were still NOT published 2.5 months after the meeting (I90 & 91)
- 8 the disgraceful slur written in the minutes against us regarding Kazia Knight (I90)
- 9 why they added clauses to the complaints procedure so that they can dismiss reasonable complaints as 'vexatious' to avoid difficult questions (I90)
- 10 our view that 'staff remuneration is within guidelines' means they are paid the maximum (I90)
- 11 why they do not compare staff costs with other nearby town councils (I90)
- 12 the claim by a former Cllr that the Comms & Events Officer was employed as 'a knee-jerk reaction' to us, the *Wetherby Free Press* (I90)
- 13 why 2 Admin staff resigned at the same time and why the Council can't retain staff (I91)
- 14 Why there was no summary or anything at all about a 'comprehensive staffing report' in minutes (I91)



ACCOUNTABILITY

It is not only what we do,
but also what we do not do,
for which we are accountable.

[Moliere]

The minutes of all meetings are ultimately their responsibility. Many are not of a high standard as we have stated many times eg in Issue 87. We await any response from Cllr Harrington and the Town Clerk. It is not too late.

Meanwhile, if you want to know the answers to any of these questions (and pass the responses to us), please write to them at

clerk@wetherby.gov.uk & norma.harrington@wetherby.gov.uk and copy us in please.

Too often Cllrs hide behind joint responsibility, so that no one person is responsible for anything.

The above proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that this Town Council is NOT 'Open & Accountable' to the Editor and our readers. It is a disgrace to democracy.



Where everyone is
responsible, no one is
really responsible.



Wonderful World of Nature at Goosemoor, nr Cowthorpe

The hot weather may have exhausted you recently. Why not get yourself to an oasis of calm and find some shady peace? You could just sit and watch some amazing wildlife there. Goosemoor nature reserve can be found down War Field Lane in Cowthorpe - it is a hidden gem. It has 2 Facebook groups - Nature Reserve and Nature Reserve Group and the latter has some wonderful images of nature. Not just a fantastic variety of birds but also bats, bugs, newts, moths, butterflies and small mammals. If you would like to help out at the reserve, they always welcome new volunteers.



3 Amazing Nature Images
off the Internet



Cont'd from page 1 Former Residents Wish Wetherby Well but

“But when even the Church seems to be on the blue side, well you think what's the point? The St James lot & Wetherby Methodists should be ashamed of themselves for mixing politics with religion and not questioning the status quo. They should do what their hero Jesus would do instead of staying silent. They are irrelevant to most people in the town, thankfully. (Ed - they do a lot of good in the community too, of course).

So thank you to all at the Free Press - you are pretty brave to do what you do. Your attitude to the Wetherby Mafia is most admirable - you're right, they are sad, angry people. It's amazing you haven't been sued if any of what you write is not true. Boy, do they hate Freedom of Speech?

The lack of support from Councillors for the Free Press shows how useless they are. The newsletter has done a lot of good - campaigns, generous offers to residents, made suggestions for improvements, promoted the real heroes of the town etc. The non-Tory cllrs say they'll change things but they don't. They merge into the blue marass and improve nothing. Take a look around in other towns and see the events they manage to put on, the community spirit, the street art, much more creativity than boring old Wetherby. Yes, it is boring, unless you're a fan of brass bands! Even some old timers were against Wetherspoons - makes you laugh.

We often discuss this with friends and we think part of the problem is the size of the place. Unlikely to happen in a village, it's too small, people meet each other in the street. A large town or city is unlikely to have so many poor councillors and a population and media willing to ignore their poor behaviour. Wetherby is the perfect size for incompetence and low standards to be ignored by many organisations and people because of self-interest, politics and no proper media oversight. Just a theory but we know we're right - wink emoji.

Only one politician stands out as being good and competent - Cllr Penny Stables (Green party). We have met her and she is lovely and takes all issues on. She responds to the FP and has our total respect. The others are mostly silent with little if any action on the low standards you expose. We wish Cllr Stables well but it must be an uphill struggle when so few dare to upset the Tory applecart (the Tories pretend it's a Rolls Royce).

It's a shame we have to move - we've lived here over 25 years. It's a great place, especially by the river and handy for going to the moors & dales etc. But it was time to find somewhere better and luckily we found it - somewhere not far away the Editor seems to like very much too (indeed he does - Ed). It's clear that many people don't travel far and compare our town with others near here and abroad. If you get the chance to visit other places, you'll see what can be achieved in a fully functioning community.

The rot started quite a few years ago when things like the Wetherby Show ended, the cricket club finished (a town the size of Wetherby can't support a Show or cricket club!)

the Footpath Society disbanded etc, to the current day with the sad decline of our once a week market, the expensive food event on the Ings failed, no original crowd-pulling events for all the family at all, never on local TV news Just had a thought, why not have a 50s Festival? (or a simple River Festival as we've suggested - Ed)

With moving we are particularly pleased to not have to pay Council Tax any more to the Town Council who spend so much of it on staff, nearly half their budget. Why don't they ever compare what they spend on staff with other councils, like Otley & Knaresborough? Unbelievable, as WFP often says. They do so little for a £750K+ budget and are not accountable at all to us (or the many readers of this newsletter - Ed).

They get away with it because we have no professional journalists - the Wetherby News is an embarrassment, some weeks with NOTHING about Wetherby, Boston Spa or surrounding villages. We hope the good people of Wetherby wake up and smell the latte.

We're very happy at our new place & wish you all the best and hope things improve for you.”

PS & MS



Penny Stables - the only decent Cllr?



It would be ironic if the Town
Council took up this idea

Thank you and all the best to you - A Slightly Envious Ed



Hi Folks,

In the latest Community Green Group newsletter there's plenty here for local residents, churches, community groups and decision-makers who want to understand what's happening locally and find ways to take part.

Adrian Balcombe, Chair

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Boston Spa, Wetherby and Villages Community Green Group is non-politically affiliated and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1204438)

The [latest Community Green Group newsletter](#) brings together a lively mix of local environmental action, community events and practical ways to get involved.

We highlight our recent local nature walk, the forthcoming **fruit and veg bring-and-buy in September**, action to protect and restore nature on Church of England land, the campaign for public ownership of the water industry, and the growing People's Emergency Briefing movement.



We've also featured;

-  climate and nature action
-  ideas for families
-  a local farmer and nature project
-  solar and home battery savings
-  community volunteering

All this and more in [our latest newsletter](#) (find under 'News' on our home page (bostongreengroup.co.uk), alongside last month's issue). Don't miss out, subscribe to stay informed.

Boston Spa Wetherby and Villages Community Green Group.

Ashfield Holds Summer Fayre & Carer Awards



Jodie Boucher, Registered Manager at Ashfield, said "It was a fabulous day, this is our annual fayre, with entertainment and dancing and a real chance to capture the community spirit. It was extra special this year with the staff appreciation ceremony, which also supported our 40 years of Ashfield."

She added: "To me, caring for others is one of the highest expressions of humanity, and we wanted to express that to our residents."

It sounds like they certainly achieved that. They received lots of praise after the event with comments like:

- * Thank you for organising the event, it really made me happy
 - * Lovely atmosphere. Great to see the residents, relatives, and staff all together
- Well done to everybody involved - our care homes do very important work in society.*

Ashfield Nursing and Residential Care Home have held a successful Summer Fayre to celebrate their 40th year.

The proceeds from a barbecue and the tombola were split between the home and local charities.

Long service awards were handed out by the Mayor of Wetherby, Cllr Connor Mulhall. Appreciation certificates were given to every staff member, as management wanted to give back to them for the amazing care and commitment they give to the residents.



New Double Yellow Lines Will Affect Cemetery Visitors

A resident has written to us about the double yellow recently painted outside Masons Field on Hallfield Lane for the duration of the new High School build.

This means that Wetherby Cemetery has no parking facilities unless a funeral is taking place. Many visitors who want to pay respects to their dead relatives or go to the memorial garden may be confused and frustrated at the situation.

There was a discussion about cemetery parking at a Wetherby Town Council Property Committee meeting earlier in the year. The correspondent says that the Town Council should take responsibility and provide parking for their visitors. He/She says they could use some of the "recently acquired £500,000 CIL funding to create a car park and make Wetherby better themselves for once".



Inconvenient for Cemetery Visitors



Yorks / Lancs / Cheshire to Win Leaders Shield

#	TEAM	P	W	D	L	PD	PTS
1	Leeds	23	18	0	5	438	36
2	Wigan	23	18	0	5	282	36
3	Warrington	23	17	0	6	244	34
4	Wakefield	23	16	0	7	203	32

There is an exciting battle at the top of Super League. Leeds and Wigan are slugging it out with 4 games to go, though Warrington have a chance too.

Another strong West Yorkshire team, Wakefield, lost ground at the top, suffering a surprising defeat at home to a struggling St Helens side.



Hall's left foot deemed to touch the line, denying Leeds a win

Leeds had an unbeaten run of 10 unbeaten games before Leigh took it away when a Leeds try was dubiously ruled out in the last couple of minutes. The video ref thought Ryan Hall's foot was touching the line when it was impossible to tell. The benefit of doubt should have been given to the attacking side. The Headingley faithful will be singing "Marching On Together" at full blast in the remaining matches, that's for sure.

The Rhinos run-in should not pose any real problems. They should beat York, St Helens & Hull FC but what a game Leeds v Wigan will be on Sat 4 Sept. Well worth tuning in on Sky, even if you're not a big fan. You'll see discipline, skill and 100% effort. These players deserve our respect for their commitment to the team, fans and the city, especially when they risk awful injuries every time they play. Come On, Leeds!



Leeds United had a decent few results in their pre-season friendlies. After losing to Wrexham in July, they beat two German sides and Liverpool 4 - 2 in America.

For the first time ever (we think), ITV televised a friendly at peak time in the evening on their main channel. The match between the Uniteds of Leeds & Manchester took place in Dublin. Fans were sitting together which was nice to see. The game itself was no classic and ended 1 - 1, with Man Utd winning a penalty shootout.

So let's hope the Whites have more ambition than just to stay in the Premier League this season. With their fanbase they should aim for the top 8 every season. The fans and the city expect and deserve more this time.

- Notts Forest v Utd on Sat 22 Aug Jan at 3pm
- Utd v Brentford on Sun 30 Aug at 2pm
- Brighton v Utd on Sat 5 Sep at 3pm
- Utd v Newcastle on Mon 14 Sep at 8pm



New Signing Nico Elvedi



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Everyone mentioned in the WFP has a right to reply. The reply will be published unedited.

If we get important facts wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error.

We don't do interviews, as we are not journalists. Professional journalists are very rare indeed now. Most are 'cut & paste from press releases' merchants. We have high standards and not afraid to say what we see.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. Our countrymen and women have died for our Freedom of Expression so do not 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.

The Editor has had 8 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest online critics have turned up yet to have a mature face-to-face discussion.



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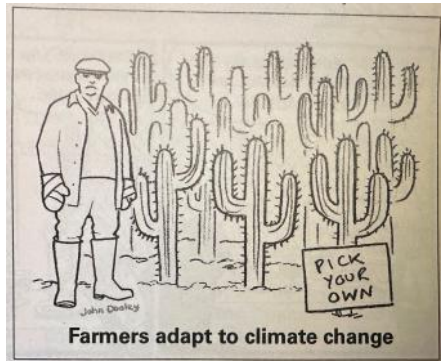
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Issue 81 of WFP had over 2000 online visits - Thanks for Reading