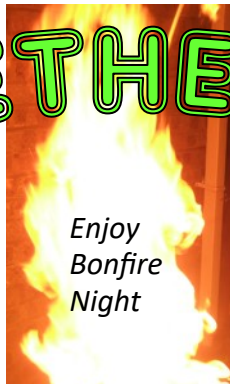


WETHERBY



Issue 53 until Late Nov '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

1000s of Readers 🙌 Thank You

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

Sat 4 Nov * Check for Cancellation *

Boston Spa Community Bonfire & Fireworks

Organised by Primrose Lane PTA. All proceeds go to school.

Gates open at 5.30. Tombolas, rides & candy floss.

Refreshments available (with Gluten Free and Vegetarian options).

Primrose Lane Primary School, Westwood Way, LS23 6DX



FREE Harrogate Bonfire & Fireworks on the Stray

The bonfire will be lit at 6:30pm followed by fireworks at around 7:15pm. Donations encouraged

Three acts will be performing on stage

The Scouts will be selling burgers, sausages, hotdogs and vegetarian options.

Take the bus no 7 from W'by opp Costa 6.05pm returning at 8.20, 9.20 or 10.20pm

Wetherby Bonfire & Fireworks on the Ings

Gates open 5:30 and the fireworks at 7:30.

Ticket only and costs £3.50. Tickets can be bought from a number of outlets – see Facebook for further details.

Others: Walton Bonfire at village hall – Gates open at 6pm before the bonfire is lit at 6:30pm and fireworks start at 7:15pm. Tickets must be pre-booked.

Collingham Bonfire at Cromwells Pub on SUN 5 NOV. Live music from 7pm and fireworks at 8pm. Tickets are £5 and include a glass of mulled wine.

There is NO event at Roundhay Park



The Wetherby Mafia Strikes Again



On a sunny weekend after our last issue came out, our critics contacted the business that advertised on our front page. They persuaded them not to advertise with us any more. The advertiser told us they did not want the hassle. That is understandable being a new business in town. It was disappointing that they could, or would, not tell us who these people were or what they said.

Like the situation with Wetherby Grumbler we could not defend ourselves. We know these people are a tiny minority and the silent majority are fully behind us and value the newsletter.

Some might say the Wetherby Mafia is a strong term to use. What term would you use for these people who cannot tolerate any criticism and hate free speech? They know they have no valid argument against us so they ignore our offer to print anything they send us and instead try to shoot the messenger AND our supporters.

Their tactics are despicable and those who use such underhand methods and don't identify themselves are cowards. They know what they are doing is wrong so they remain anonymous.

We can only guess who this tiny minority are. Maybe it's one sad person who has got his/her friends and colleagues involved. Or maybe it's an orchestrated campaign with a couple of the town's organisations involved. Whoever they are, it shows there are some nasty and vengeful people in our town. Do they have something to hide if they go to such lengths to stop us? One day the truth will out and secrets uncovered.

But the Good News is that actions like this strengthen our resolve to keep going.

If you are threatened by these people or they hint in any way it would be bad for you/your business if you continue supporting us, then please do the right thing and tell us.



Bad things happen when good people do nothing

Thank you.

Front Page Space for the Wetherby Mafia to prove they aren't the type of people we have described above - 300 words unedited

Another Shop Break In



Forensics were at the scene in Horsefair on the morning of Wed 14 Oct.

No details from Police.

Not reported by local media. See page 9

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

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Don't Miss Out - Join Our Mailing List : WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

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Wheeler's Invite New Members

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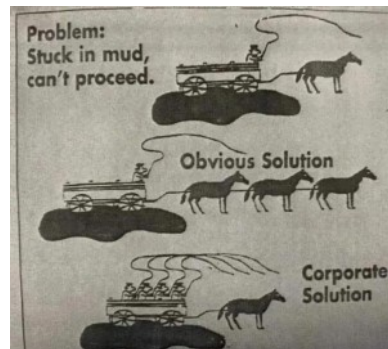
Confidential Info !!

Page 10



Couldn't believe it when someone told me Man Utd players were having a kickabout with a hedgehog. I was about to ring the RSPCA when the hedgehog went 1 - 0 up.

It's a 5-minute walk from my house to the pub. It's a 35 minute walk from the pub to my house. The difference is staggering!



Wetherby Town Council Meeting - Oct



We write to all councillors and Town Hall staff after every issue. They continue to ignore the legitimate concerns we raised in the last issue (and the issue before that) **Wetherby Deserves Better**

The latest meeting took place on 10 October, 3 weeks ago and still no sign of the draft minutes on their website. We will inform you of their contents in the next issue.

If you want to attend, the next meeting is on Tues 14 Nov and starts at 7pm. You will not be alone; more residents are attending than used to. This is good for democracy and accountability.

So-called Wetherby News up 10p, for the Usual One Item of News

The Issue of 2 Nov had just the one item of news about Wetherby & area for your £2.10. It was about a solar panel farm near the services.

Wetherby Deserves Better!

A new Facebook page has been created. Excellent news! The owner has our full permission to use any content from WFP.

Let's hope it encourages many improvements.



Legal Threat from W'by Organisation Wanting NO Discussion About Them At All! Why?

We received this letter from a Wetherby organisation. It is not a wind-up.

"Good afternoon Paul,

I want to make sure I'm completely clear that I do not want anything to do with my name and the *** mentioned in any further editions of the Wetherby Free Press.

Any mention of me, or the *** will result in me passing it onto my legal team as I haven't agreed to you or the Wetherby Free Press using any of the above in the Wetherby Free Press.

As a resident of Wetherby with **** I hope you understand my position and politely respect the above.

Kind Regards"

We think this is nonsense. We are checking with our 'legal team' whether it is. If it is an empty threat, then we will consider pursuing legal redress as they are clearly trying to restrict a basic human right in this country - freedom of expression. **If it is valid, then Free Speech is Well and Truly Dead in this Town/Country, Folks.**

Why do they want to silence us about their organisation? Why does it not want to be accountable to our readers, many of whom will be their members. Interestingly, this person sent us something recently they **did** want publishing and it would have been in this edition. Then this sudden change of mind! No explanation why.



MEET THE EDITOR



Fri 24 Nov at 10 - 11

A Supporter has kindly set up a Facebook Page for

At **Morrisons** New Cafe

Sun 26 Nov at 10 - 11

Wetherby Free Press so please join it & share its contents

Don't Make Judgements Before Knowing ALL The Facts

All Saints' Church, Kirkby Overblow
29th November to 2nd December 2023, 7.30pm

The Friends of All Saints presents
KODS production of

YES, PRIME MINISTER

By Anthony Jay & Jonathan Lynn

For tickets & reservations email
kodstickets@gmail.com

Tickets £15 including programme
Under 16s £10



WHAT'S ON

more on Page 9

The Kirkby Overblow Dramatic Society (KODS) is an amateur dramatic society based in the heart of Kirkby Overblow. Its first production was in 1981, and since then it has entertained thousands of its followers with classic productions including *The Real Inspector Hound*, 'Allo 'Allo and *The Ladykillers*.

Its latest production brings to the stage the classical political sitcom written by Anthony Jay and Jonathan Lynn but with a modern twist.

When? Wednesday 29 November to Saturday 2 December - curtain up at 7:30pm

Where? All Saints' Church, Kirkby Overblow

Tickets? £15 for adults (includes a programme) and £10 for under 16s

Where can I buy them? email: kodstickets@gmail.com stating the date you are watching and the number of tickets required. You then make a bank transfer to:

Account Name: Kirkby Overblow Dramatic Society Sort code: 08-92-99 Account Number: 6719 8874 Reference: Your name

Each year, the proceeds of the production support local charities. This year, the two are *Friends of Alfie Martin* - a charity raising funds for life-saving care and equipment for critically ill babies alongside cancer support charity *Maggies Yorkshire*.

Community Action Group Event at Town Hall

Energy costs continue to be volatile. How can our community become more energy independent? By making the most of cheaper, local and sustainable energy.



Bainbridge in Wharfedale

'Bainbridge Hydro' are a community hydro scheme setup in 2011 and have recently passed a milestone of 1 million kWh generated for the local community. They will be sharing their experiences and the *Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group* will also be launching a Community Solar Scheme. Find out more.

In the UK, we waste 38 million wheelie bins of edible food each year. And £140M of used

but wearable clothing also goes to landfill each year. What else have you bought and never used much again? What can we do as a community to reduce waste?

A speaker from Buy Nowt LS6 & a Library of Things will describe their pay-as-you-feel community initiative, created by a group of local volunteers to encourage local people to borrow instead of buying the things they need.

Refill Kitchen is a social enterprise based in the city of York. They rescue perfectly good edible food from local suppliers and supermarkets deemed as waste and destined for landfill. They then revalue, repurpose and redistribute the food making it accessible to all.

There are limited allotments in Wetherby. Do you have a green space that could be used by someone else? *Living Potential*, will be showcasing what they do on a working farm near Wetherby. It's a Community Interest Company, set up to be a non-profit social enterprise. It is run by Tanya and the team who have many years of experience, teaching and working in a variety of environments and who have seen first-hand the therapeutic effects of nature-based interventions.

The average UK car journey is just 8.4 miles. Our streets become more congested and polluted. What is your most common, short journey? What can we do as a community to reduce congestion and pollution? The *Community Green Group* will be launching a new rideshare idea to draw our community closer together and help cut down on the town's congestion and parking challenges.



Adrian Balcombe

Adrian Balcombe, organiser of the event, says this is a massive opportunity for everyone to get together and plan for a better sustainable future. He hopes people from all backgrounds will attend.

Turn up on the day or reserve your free seat (limited space available). Refreshments by Children's Society.

Email adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk or visit www.bostongreengroup.co.uk

Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group is not political. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Reg Charity No 1204438).

Don't Make Decisions Until **3** You Know ALL The Facts

Bee-Crafty Markets
WINTER Craft Market
at Scarcroft Village Hall
Saturday 11th November
Gingerbread Decorating & Cafe
10-3pm
Bee-Crafty Markets

Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages
Community Green Group

COMMUNITY ACTION

HAVE YOUR SAY

SATURDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER
12 NOON START. FOR 2 HOURS ONLY
WETHERBY TOWN HALL

- ✓ Inspirational speakers on:
 - Community Energy
 - Community Transport solutions
 - Waste (food) & Reuse
 - Community Gardens
- ✓ free entry



bostongreengroup.co.uk

TRANSPORT NEWS

Results of X98/99 Survey

We asked this question on Wetherby Grumbler: (of course we couldn't mention WFP, that would be advertising!)

"It is exactly a year since Harrogate Bus Company (Transdev) took over the X98 / X99 service to Leeds. They say there's a 21% increase in passengers. Overall, what do bus users think of the service?"

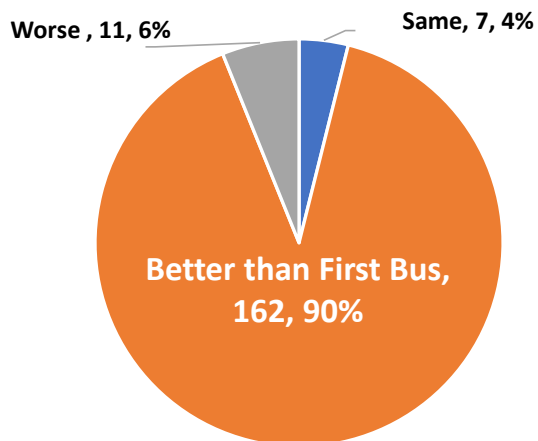
The results show that 90% think it's better than the last operator, First Bus.

You would think that Paul Turner, Commercial Director at Harrogate Bus Company would be pleased to comment.



Good drivers, buses and service but senior management ignore good news!

X98/99 Passenger Survey on Transdev's Performance Compared to First Bus



But he hasn't even acknowledged our email.

It's a slap in the face for all those who took part in the survey and shows Transdev don't want to know what passengers think.

Comments from Bus Users:

"Not enough buses to Ainsty Road / Aire Road in North Wetherby" - 24 people agreed

"Needs to be limited stop to reduce travel time" - 17 people agreed

"Bus should run to Wetherby Services off A1 (M) for workers there" - 5 people agreed

If you took part in the survey and want to try and get a response from Harrogate Bus Co on the results and passenger comments, please email:

paul.turner@transdevbus.co.uk,
customer.services@transdevbus.co.uk
henri.rohard@transdevbus.co.uk

And tell us what they say, please

Cllr Lamb's Response to Bus Issues

Cllr Alan Lamb is one of 3 Ward Councillors for Wetherby on Leeds City Council. He is Leader of the Council's Conservatives. alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk



We are grateful to Cllr Lamb for this summary of work he is doing and his views.

Bus Stops & Shelters. "I am lobbying WYCA for more shelters and better infrastructure. If there are any particular locations you feel would benefit, please let me know and I'm happy to put them forwards."



An obvious place for a bus shelter - plenty of room for it.

So please email your suggestions to him (and copy us in)

Against Public Control of Buses using Franchising. "I voted against the move towards a franchising system like the one in Manchester at the last WYCA board meeting, I was the only member to do so. It's not a position of principal but more of pragmatism. According to the papers we were presented, franchising will cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of pounds more but will not deliver any service improvements until 2028 at the earliest. The financial liability will also transfer to the combined authority under this model. While it's early days in Manchester, I don't believe the implementation is going well with costs already substantially higher than anticipated. If the same happened here, it would mean either services would have to be cut or the Mayor would have to use their tax raising powers to add a levy to the council tax to cover the difference. I think this could be up to £500 per household per year without factoring in repair and renewal of rolling stock and depots."

We agree with Alan but for different reasons - we simply do not think Metro/WYCA/the Mayor is competent to control buses when they cannot do their current simple job of infrastructure and information properly. For a pro-franchising view, see page 6.

Meeting with Transdev. "Norma and I met with Transdev this morning to discuss service improvements, particularly to York."

Good to hear. Perhaps they could ask Transdev why they ignore WFP - see above. We would welcome a new operator on the York service and an evening and Saturday service.

Metro/WYCA Bus Information. "I'm happy to ask about printed materials and more professional signage." Thank you.

Vehicles Blocking Bus Sta Exit. "Additional signage, lining and enforcement are being implemented at the bus station and we have asked the council to explore whether a camera could be used so that enforcement can take place 24/7. We've encouraged the bus companies to report any incidents as this strengthens our case for action. Equally, any residents should call the police if someone is obstructing access. They will attend if they can and are monitoring the area. Even if they can't make it immediately, the logging of incidents strengthens our case for having additional measures implemented. If nothing is reported and recorded, our pleas fall on deaf ears." It can't come soon enough. Thank you.

Someone did not want you to read any of the above. It is confidential, apparently. See page 10 for more details.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Joys of Social Media!

This is what can happen when you say something nice on Wetherby Grumbler facebook group. A new business on the Shambles has opened and the owner Billie Ager-Mills posted about opening hours in the run up to Christmas. The Editor responded with: "Your local community newsletter, WFP, supports new, local businesses like yours, Billie. Use it to promote yours and any ideas you have."

Ms Ager-Mills did not respond with 'thanks but no thanks'. Instead she took the opportunity to:

- * misinform the 28,000 members with 2 incorrect statements about WFP. We corrected them and received no apology.
- * make personal comments about the Editor ('you come across bitter' - we refuse to descend to that level of debate)
- * criticise my style of writing - she finds it 'full of spite & vitriol'. We asked for 3 examples. Not one was provided.
- * talk nonsense: 'Read in Gollum's voice Vicky - Wetherby Free Pressh, is preshishes, you filthy hobbitses' was one of two incomprehensible responses.

Ms Ager-Mills is one of the 4 new Wetherby Town Councillors. We had great hopes that she would improve standards but the attitude and content in this exchange shows that is in doubt. Ms Ager-Mills has not responded to any of the Editor's emails raising serious issues after every edition of WFP. Actions always speak louder than words and we will give her and the others a bit longer. Again, we offer Ms Ager-Mills the opportunity to write anything about this Grumbler post, or her councillor work and we will publish it unedited.



Wetherby 'dead on Sundays'

In the post above Cllr Ager-Mills describes Wetherby as being 'pretty dead' on Sundays. Imagine if Wetherby Free Press had said such a

thing, we would have been beaten with that stick for many years to come, with people saying we're always negative and doing the town down etc. It's not true anyway, many hundreds of visitors come every Summer Sunday to listen to the brass band and feed the ducks.

Here is our opinion and advice.

The Wetherby Business Association should carry out a proper survey to find out exactly what residents and shop owners think about late opening on Thursdays and Sundays. The results may show that it is not worth doing. If so, that is a lot of time and money saved by taking no action. Sometimes it is more sensible to do nothing. Of course, shops can individually open at those times and it is their responsibility to promote themselves properly and get the message out there effectively. We can help for free if you cannot afford our cheap ad rates. We support local business, especially new ones like the one on page 7.

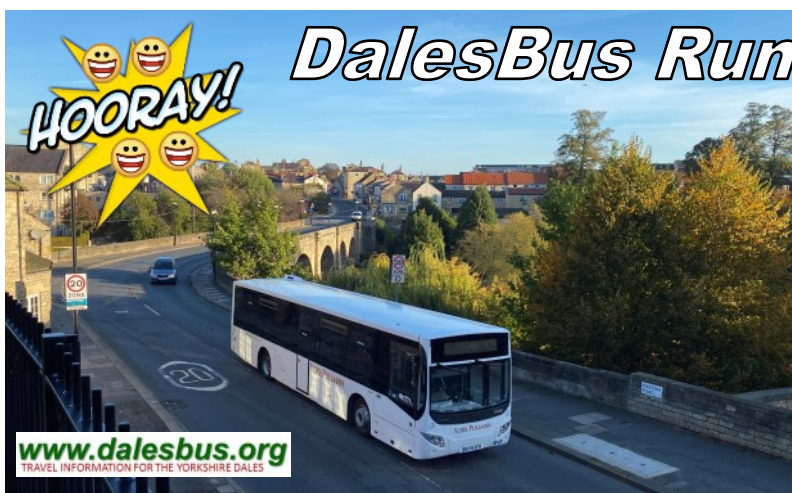


Double Standards by Wetherby Grumbler Admin

The post above by Cllr Ager-Mills included an image of her business. It was posted on a Wednesday, not Tuesday when business posts are allowed on the Grumbler Facebook page.

The Wetherby Free Press had 2 posts banned by Wetherby Grumbler admin recently, including one on a Tuesday. It contained all the bonfires in the area (see front page) and our logo. This very useful information was not allowed yet Cllr Ager-Mill's post was.

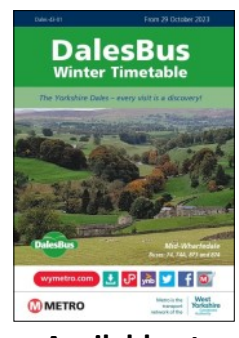
This is clear evidence of double standards. Especially when two other major social media groups had no problem with our post. We put this to Wetherby Grumbler admin but they did not answer our point. Instead they said my simple polite question was 'bordering on harassment' and threatened to remove me from the group. This is an absurd accusation and is unreasonable behaviour. We are being discouraged from questioning their bizarre decisions. More censorship, folks.



DalesBus Runs over Winter too

Yes, the 874 to Grassington & Buckden continues. It's the same time, 8.35, on Sundays from the bus station. It then goes down the A58 to Leeds.

£2 Single



Available at Library

There's 2 Sides 5 to Every Story

Consultation on Bus Franchising - Do You Want Mayor in Control?

The consultation runs until 7 January, with people able to have their say at numerous drop-in sessions, online at www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/busreform, or by post. Currently, bus routes, timetables, and fares, are mainly set by private bus operators, which has led to inconsistent standards across the region.

Metro/WYCA/Mayor thinks that Franchising would offer “clear strategic benefits”.

Bus Franchising would give the Combined Authority control over the routes, frequency, fares and overall standards of the region’s buses, and it would then contract bus operators to run these on its behalf. Like Manchester are doing.

There are other systems like ‘enhanced partnerships’ which seem to work well in the West Midlands. See blog from @busandtrainuser for comprehensive analysis.

Simon Warburton, Executive Director of Transport at the Metro/WYCA said: “No decision has been made yet – and that’s why we want as many people as possible to have their say.”

The results will be published and a final decision is expected to be made on the future of West Yorkshire’s buses in Spring 2024.

Cllr Lamb states why he is against franchising on page 4. Cllr Penny Stables, Green Party fully supports it. She says:

“I believe that the only way to get a better bus service long term is to bring our buses back under public control. Having looked at the Enhanced Partnership+ options versus the Franchising option I believe that Franchising is the best way to go for long term benefit. Although it would be cheaper and slightly quicker to move to an EP+ system, this system would not prevent the continued decline in the number of routes being operated, as the private bus companies continue to focus on those most profitable.

The Franchising system would ensure that we not only keep all of the essential bus routes but going forward will be

able to look at increasing the number of routes to link up some of our communities that are becoming isolated. It is the most vulnerable members of our society that are disproportionately affected by cuts in our bus service, as many do not have access to a car or the ability to pay for a taxi. They are purely reliant on buses.

This is especially the case in Boston Spa, Clifford, Walton, Thorp Arch and Bramham, who all rely almost exclusively on the number 7 bus, as this is the only link to Leeds. There is no direct public transport link from any of these villages to York currently, which given that mental health services are signposted from here to York is beyond appalling! In addition, we have no trains, unlike most areas of Leeds, which means that our bus service is even more important to all of our residents.”



Would the 7 be improved under franchising?

Another Way - Enhanced Partnership Plus’ (EP+)

Bus operators have joined forces to launch ‘The Best for West Yorkshire’ campaign.



They are confident their partnership plan will deliver benefits for customers including accelerating public control without the burden and financial risk of a franchising.

They say an independent auditor concluded that the EP+ “would according to the assessment be justifiable...in terms of delivering Value for Money...”

It would see the network controlled through a Network Management Group, overseen by WYCA. It claims to deliver all the benefits of Bus Reform: a better bus network, including improved reliability, more frequent services, simpler ticketing, unified customer service and electrification of the fleet.

They claim it would provide immediate improvements to bus services, whereas the Mayor’s preferred ‘franchising’ route would not come into operation until 2027 at the earliest. The operators’ option also ensures there is less financial risk to the public purse.

A spokesperson for the bus companies said:

“In partnership with the CA and mayoral authority, we’ve jointly rolled-out the ‘Mayor’s Fares’ initiative, capping single trips at £2, have made travel for young people under 19 simpler and fairer and led the way in introducing a greener bus fleet. All of this has been delivered in partnership, which is what makes EP+ the stronger and less risky choice to guarantee the best bus service for West Yorkshire.”



MEET THE EDITOR

Morrisons New Café, nr the entrance

Fri 24 Nov at 10 - 11
& Sun 26 Nov at 10 - 11

Come and say ‘Hello’ and tell him your thoughts. It’s YOUR community newsletter and we’d like to know what you think of it. Perhaps you can help and write one part of it?

We sincerely hope our critics, particularly those who pressurise our advertisers and Wetherby Grumbler admin to stop engaging with us, can summon up the courage and meet the Editor and have an adult conversation on what they have against us and where the town/WFP can improve.

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



has joined the team at *Furever Pets* on Aire Road, Wetherby.

We specialise in small to medium sized dogs.

To make an appointment for your loveable pooch for a Full Groom or just a freshen up with a Bath and Blow Dry, please

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



Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available

Call Kerry on 07876 525 589



Wetherby Foodbank

November 2023 Foodbank Wish List

TOP 3

- Long-life milk - semi-skimmed
- Long-life fruit juice - cartons
- Instant hot chocolate
- Tinned 'hot' meats: mince/hot dogs/stew
- Tinned cold meats: corned beef
- Tinned potatoes
- Instant mash
- Sponge puddings
- Custard - tinned or cartons
- Tinned fruit - all types
- Instant coffee
- Tinned fish - NOT tuna
- Pasta 'n' sauce sachets
- Pot noodles
- Instant porridge

URGENT!

Thank you!



only £1

Lucky Ducky

Duck Food

from CANCER RESEARCH UK

& TREASURES Toys

OPEN SUNDAYS



Wildlife of Wetherby

Widespread throughout Britain, weasels are our smallest and probably most numerous carnivores. They are found in a wide range of habitats which include urban areas, lowland pasture, woodland, marshes and moors.

Weasels are less common where their prey are scarce, such as at higher altitudes and in dense woodland with sparse ground cover.

There is a saying that 'a weasel is weasel-ey recognised and a stoat is stoat-ally different', but it confirms how difficult it is to tell the two species apart.

These little brown mammals are both fast and ferocious, with sinuous bodies and short legs.

The most important difference is that stoat's tails have a bristly black tip whereas the weasel's tail is much shorter and light brown all the way to its tip.

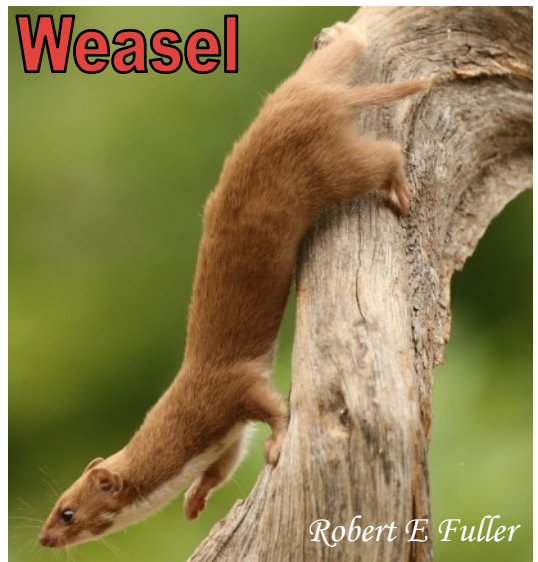
Weasels have a short life - only around 10% survive to over 2 years old. More info at www.mammal.org.uk

Stoat in Issue 50



Robert E Fuller

Weasel



Robert E Fuller

Wetherby News

NEWSWATCH

We are keeping a tab on the number of general news items about Wetherby / Boston Spa & letters from residents in the published paper, now costing £2.10. We do this in the hope they will wake up and take up some of our stories. Nothing so far.

Issue of 19 Oct '23:

News Items - 1

Support for Lidl needing Planning Permission for the Mercure Hotel site

Issue of 26 Oct '23:

News Items - 1 Letters - 0

Lidl refused Planning Permission for the Mercure Hotel site

Issue of 2 Nov '23: See page 2

Proof that the town has given up on them, if hardly anybody contacts them with news any more. Or do they now have a policy of one story maximum about Wetherby & area!



In summary we are a friendly club who like coffee and cake! We are affiliated to Cycling UK and offer a wide range of experiences on your bike.

One of our strengths is our mid-week daytime rides and with our Saturday and Sunday rides, we believe we have a full menu of varied rides that will meet all your needs for group riding.

We believe that with our experienced ride leaders, we can exploit to the full our privileged and unique location here in Wetherby. You can be sure of experiencing varied routes as we tour the country lanes of Yorkshire's Dales, Wolds, North York

Moors, and Vale of York! We have a strict policy that no one will be left behind so rest assured you will enjoy the camaraderie of group cycling.

Wetherby Wheelers have 4 rides each week from 35 to 85 miles at a pace to suit the days group. The official club rides are on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. We do have other rides but these are more informal.

New riders are welcome to join us for a few rides before deciding to join the club. For the less experienced, the Saturday rides are half day events, focused more on the social side with the essential coffee stop. Most rides meet at the Shambles but check the details on the website for contacts and more info.

Further details can be found in the Club Rides section and Join Us page on our website at: www.wetherbywheelers.co.uk

Our Facebook Page is Wetherby Wheelers



Bramham War Memorial & Parish Centre Opening

A reader and resident of Bramham wrote to us about two issues.

1 They wondered why the War Memorial had not been cleaned 6 months after it was discussed. They hoped it would be done in time for Remembrance Sunday.



We asked Bramham Parish Council to respond and the Clerk kindly sent us this soonafter.

“ Earlier this year the council received a request from Bramham in Bloom for the War Memorial to be cleaned prior to spring planting of the planters sited on the monument. However, the War Memorial is Grade II listed and in the first instance the council contacted the Conservation Officer at Leeds City Council to confirm whether permission was required for the work and for advice on appropriate cleaning methods. The Conservation Officer advised that whilst permission was not required it must be cleaned using a specific steam cleaning method to prevent damage to the stone and the brass plaques. Quotes are being obtained from companies who specialise in these cleaning methods. It is unlikely that the War Memorial will be cleaned before Remembrance Sunday. The worst scenario would be for work to be started before Remembrance Sunday and for it not to be finished on time. ”

Our resident is confused about this response, as they say that Councillor Linda Richards already knew that cleaning permission is not required and that specialist cleaning is needed. They say that Cllr Richards 'led on this twice previously when it was cleaned and has the details of the company who did the work'. The Parish Council say that Cllr V Whitbread took the lead, not Cllr Richards and that the best up-to-date advice is needed from the LCC Conservation Officer. They add that more than 1 quote is needed because of the anticipated costs.

2 The resident was concerned about a £200 budget that was agreed for wine and Yorkshire Tea Loaf for an opening ceremony for the new Parish Centre. They say very few attended other than the parish councillors.

The Clerk responded:

“ The official opening of the Bramham Parish Centre was advertised under “Recent Posts” on the council website (and on other media sites) on the 26 September and 6 October stating that “All Bramham residents are warmly invited to attend”. A further post dated 10th October gives an account of the event. Approximately 30 people attended over the course of the afternoon, including several councillors. The overall costs were lower than the agreed budget of £200.00. The tea loaf was kindly baked and donated by a councillor, soft drinks and cheese cost £21.62 and unsold wine from the Bramham Show was used (cost c£49.00). ”



Our resident wonders why they felt the amount of £200 needed to be sanctioned, if as they say the costs were minimal.

We are pleased to praise and thank Bramham Parish Council for their speed and willingness to respond to legitimate concerns from a resident. Wetherby Town Council refuses to address any of the legitimate issues we raise with them, and from a resident of 30+ years.

We were also impressed by the attractiveness and format of the Parish Council website. The opposite of Wetherby Town Councils.

Bramham do not need a Communications Officer on £31K+, but Wetherby does in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. Why?

WETHERBY FESTIVAL

Since 1977

We started and now we are finished!!

Were you one of the 1,000 plus people who enjoyed more than 20 events over the ten days? If so, thank you for coming, we are sure you enjoyed yourselves and, if you do have any views, (just the positive ones!) please be in touch.

2023 was one of our most successful Festivals yet and we already have plans for more fun next year. Save the dates, 4 - 12th October 2024

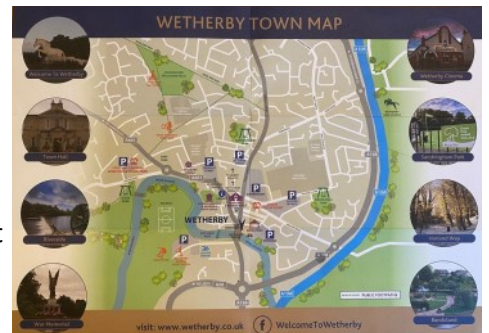


Wetherby Town Leaflet Worth the Long Wait? (No)



Years in the planning, Welcome to Wetherby have finally produced a new leaflet. It cost £1500 to design and there was very little detail in the Town Council minutes about the process and reasons for delay. There was no consultation with residents (free on social media) and no advertising to pay for it. So we the tax payer paid for it.

Our opinion. The front page is predictable, no imagination. No happy, smiling face, anywhere in the leaflet! The image covered only half the area. Welcome to Wetherby is stated TWICE - unnecessary duplication on the cover. Many of the images are a disgrace - why are they so dark? Just look at our Town Hall! The image of the bandstand has no band or people enjoying a sunny Sunday. Six of the images are so small they are hardly worth putting in. Half of the bus picture is road, not bus. We could go on. We are not surprised at these low standards. The editor will bring Otley's leaflets to 'Meet The Editor' later this month and you can decide for yourselves.



Very poor - no street names in town centre. NO BUS STATION! Dark pictures. No mention of Whaler even.

Thoughtless Parking - One Rule for Us, Another for the Police

This was not an emergency vehicle attending an incident, it was a CSI van.

It was doing forensics most of the morning at the break-in at Boots, see front page.

West Yorkshire Police caused inconvenience to motorists but more importantly pedestrians.

Wheelchair users / mobility scooters and parents with wheelchairs would have to cross the road.

In Issue 51 we highlighted pavement blocking by local campaigner Doug Paulley. There is no excuse for inconsiderate parking, especially when there is ample parking nearby.



MP Alec Shelbrooke: Still Making Little Effort on Social Media

Neither Alec or his supporters explained why we have seen and heard almost nothing of our MP in recent months, highlighted in the last issue. Or refuted it, if they think it is not true.

Conservative party members clearly do read the Free Press though, as the embarrassing Facebook group of Young Conservatives, see image right, with no followers has been taken down.



Most disappointing was the lack of comment from Alec on the story of an English-speaking wife being refused a visa to live here, when her high-earning husband and children all have British passports, image left.

Just a general comment to show he cares about such a life-changing situation is all that was needed. Nothing from him.



Space for Alec (basic salary of £86.5K) **to Inform Constituents**

(Unedited, max 400 words)

Nothing received since we began 2 years ago

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk



Jun	0
Jul	1
Aug	0
Sep	1
Oct	0

The table shows the number of Alec's tweets about his constituency. His other tweets to his 17,000+ followers are about international matters. It is an obvious conclusion to make that he cares more about the Middle East situation than the cost of living crisis. Disagree? Write and we'll print your rebuttal.

Meanwhile on Facebook, with less than 3000 followers, he spends more time and effort. (Why?). In October he posted 9 times.

4 were about the benefits of cancelling HS2 * 1 was about NATO

1 was promoting a supermarket surgery * 1 was about farming

1 was about a school visit * 1 was supporting Israel

Alec does not address the cost of living crisis or the recent break-ins or makes any visits to crime victims or foodbanks. His priorities seem to be elsewhere.



Cllr Lamb does not want you to read this info. It is Confidential!

The Editor sent Conservative Leader of Leeds City Council Cllr Lamb a draft of our article on page 4 for any comments or changes he may like to make. He wrote back saying "I don't want any of this to be published. I answered your questions as a resident not for publication. I have no comment for WFP."

The Editor wrote back pointing out that:

- 1 he is perfectly aware that I am the Editor of the WFP and raise all these issues in it
- 2 there is literally nothing derogatory about anyone in what he said - it was all true, honest opinion and it is all in the public interest.
- 3 in his previous emails he has given no indication that he wanted what he said to be confidential.
- 4 he is an elected representative and should take every opportunity to inform the public.

The Editor added that he has provided no reason for why he does not want readers of the WFP to know his actions and views on bus issues. The Editor also said if he withdraws his no-publication request, we can forget it happened.

Cllr Lamb responds by saying he does not think it is strange behaviour at all. He repeats what he said previously and says "I've been clear and consistent for some time that I don't wish to make any comment to your publication."



Cllr Lamb on a recent TV appearance



More strange goes on in this crazy town of ours. Readers can make their own minds up.

It is our view that it is ridiculous not to expect the Editor to publish what an elected representative has said for the 4 reasons above. How can we have a debate about the issues if councillors will not let us publish their actions and views. It is absurd.

If we do not report what he says in these pages it leaves you, our readers, ignorant and it means Cllr Lamb is not accountable for his views and actions. Is that the real reason for his request, we wonder, because there is nothing in our response to merit censorship. In fact we say some nice things and agree with him on one point! Sadly, this is a continuation of the intolerance for any freedom of speech reported elsewhere in these pages.

As we reported in the last issue, Cllr Lamb said he knows what caused the bus crash in July 2021. But mere mortals like us are not to be trusted with such knowledge. Or maybe we are not intelligent enough to understand. And we have to take his word that it won't happen again. In our experience it is only one political party that treats people in this high-handed manner.

We have taken the massive legal risk to publish and be damned! The Editor has worked on nuclear submarine research and at West Yorkshire Police and is pretty sure there is no confidential or classified information on page 4 or in the above. Cllr Lamb seems a decent bloke but he must see that censoring behaviour like this is counter-productive.



A £5 donation helps us keep a visual 10 presence in the town - thank you



Leeds had a fine victory at Carrow Road against manager Farke's old team, Norwich. They won 3 - 2. A disappointing defeat at Stoke followed where the only goal was scored late on with an own goal. Bamford, right, missed a penalty.

The early kick-off on Saturday was due to a very local Yorkshire derby. Struggling Huddersfield Town were the visitors to Elland

Road. Shame it was not live on TV as it turned into a very satisfactory day at the office. Leeds were 4 - 0 up at half time thanks to amazing performances by Summerville and James.

The first was beautifully worked from the back by the pair ending with the ball in the left hand corner of the net, see image.



Superb goal by James for United's first

A poor defensive error by Shackleton could have let Town back in the game but Leeds got away with it. Summerville scored an easy second goal on the half hour. **Huddersfield were poor in defence and attack**, and Leeds took full advantage. Two goals each for Summerville and James at half time. Leeds goalie Meslier fluffed a simple shot and let in Town for a consolation goal in the 70th minute. **The 4 - 1 result puts Leeds in 3rd place**, 9 points behind second place Ipswich. Plenty of Leeds United live on TV in November. Enjoy!



- Leicester City v **Utd** on Fri 3 Nov at 20.00
- Utd** v Plymouth on Sat 11 Nov at 15.00
- Rotherham Utd v **Utd** on Fri 24 Nov at 20.00
- Utd** v Swansea City on Wed 29 Nov at 19.45

Your Community Newsletter Editor: Paul Kirby

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Tel: 07840 862861 Twitter: @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

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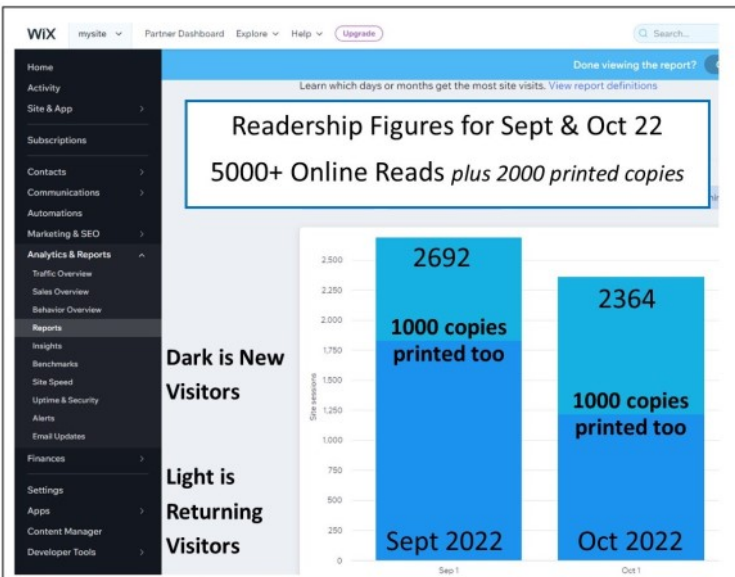


Next Issue 54 - Late Nov



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

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Send us your

to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023