



Daffs & Snow

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

ISSUE 16 until Fri 15 April '22

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Editor *Paul Kirby* WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @WbyFreePress

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Praise for Local Business - Wheely Good Service

"Just wanted to say what wonderful service I got from the bike place on Sandbeck estate. Amazing prices on some of those bikes, £1000s but I just wanted my gears fixing on my ordinary pushbike. Expecting a high bill I was pleasantly surprised, very reasonable. And they explained what they did and why they did it. Great stuff. They told me they are a family firm from Spofforth and have another shop in Saltaire so let's give a shout out to our great local businesses. Good on 'em."



Reader's Letter



That's great to hear. We will take every opportunity to 'big up' local businesses.

The Red Arrows flew over Wetherby on their way from RAF Leeming to RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. They started their displays at patriotic national events in 1964.

Made up of nine red jets, they amaze crowds with their thrilling manoeuvres and perfect formation flying, often accompanied with red, white and blue smoke trailing behind them.

On this occasion they were commemorating the disbanding of 100 Squadron at RAF Leeming. They made an unusual noise for aircraft and many wondered what it was.



A burglary was reported in the Kings Meadow area of the Ainsty Road estate on Tuesday 29 March. Police were knocking on doors asking if people had seen anything.

Residents were upset on the same day at about 4pm to see two youths fire a slingshot at pigeons, just off Hallfield Lane near the Primary School. They were chased but got away. One bird died.

Three garages have been set alight off Burrel Close near the Hallfield Lane cemetery. Before this incident, the Editor noticed that the end garage had been open for quite a while, possibly caused by the recent stormy weather. It was fortunate that the fire did not spread to fences and nearby homes.



Clean Up after the Fire

MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD

Why do local TV newsreaders thank the national presenter when they know they can't hear them?

Read the Full 8 Page Issue online at

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

Street Art in Prague



Best of Social Media

Cute & Cosy at Middlesboro'





Fuel prices for Unleaded: Morrisons £1.65 Shell £1.69 down 2p and up 1p from 2 wks ago
Correct on 30 Mar to nearest penny Seacroft Tesco £1.57 Difference b/w s'markets to fill av. tank is £4.40

Can we Trust our Transport Authority, Metro (WYCA) to be in Charge of Buses with their Performance on Infrastructure?

In the last issue we questioned the competency of Metro, as well as informing you of the good things they do. Managing Director Ben Still did not respond to the negatives or the positives.

Recently the Editor and 5 others were waiting for the last bus at 22.06 from Leeds at the Eastgate stop. The real time electronic display counted the bus down and then it disappeared.

A few weeks ago the Editor was on that bus and it went straight on along Vicar Lane. He emailed his concern to the MD of First Leeds as he saw people waiting on Eastgate. The MD Paul Mathews confirmed it was a diversion. The Editor keeps a close eye on buses but knew nothing about it. Poor communication from the bus company and Metro. The editor thought it was a temporary diversion and a one-off.

Apparently not. So where were the notices at the bus stop saying large and loud "BUSES AFTER ??pm WILL NOT STOP HERE. GO TO VICAR LANE"? And why did the real time display not tell us? Metro and First are jointly responsible for this lack of customer care. Thankfully, there was a later 7 some of us could catch.



An evening X98 in Leeds starting on Boar Lane

All Fares  after 7pm on **First Leeds** buses

X98/99 Mon - Fri: W'by Bus Sta 19.04, 20.10 Leeds Boar Lane to W'by 21.03, 22.03

Leeds Civic Trust also highlights poor bus stop info

In a 13-page document Leeds Civic Trust give examples of confusing, inadequate and incomplete information on Metro's new bus stops and maps, along with inconsistencies. One of the craziest is two different number 7's (one to Harrogate, one to Alwoodley / Primley Park / Shadwell) using the same bus stop! Pity the poor visitor or new user. Harrogate Bus Company (HBC) are partly to blame for this as they renumbered their 770 to 77 then just 7. At the time the Editor informed Metro and the Managing Director of HBC that this was not a sensible move.

7 Primley Park	Leeds City	TA Alwoodley
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Two routes numbered 7!

Leeds North East - West Yorkshire Police nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk

Twitter: @WYP_LeedsNE 3,200 followers Facebook: @WYPLeedsNorthEast 8,400 followers

Five Posts in the past 26 days None related specifically to Wetherby

- 4 Mar - Alwoodley PACT mtg
- 14 Mar - Marking bikes at Meanwood
- 22 Mar - Marking bikes at Chapel Allerton
- 23 Mar - Fail to stop abandoned car found, no location
- 24 Mar - Executed 4 warrants, drugs & knives seized, no location

Town Council report on PACT Mtg of 1 March: Four burglaries and two attempted burglaries from garages/sheds during the daytime. Three thefts from shops in the Horsefair and a shop on Crossley Street had been burgled twice, the first time forcing the shop to close for a period. Overall five fewer crimes than last month. Council encourages members of the public to report all incidents to the police as the number and type of crimes reported does affect the allocation of resources.



The Alec Shelbrooke Page



Alec Shelbrooke, 46 has been our Conservative MP for 11+ years. In the last election he got 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He campaigned to remain in Europe. His basic salary is £82K. Alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk is his email. From Dec '19 to Nov '21 he has voted 357 times (out of 392) and has never

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

Alec continues to ignore this platform to tell us his views. He has given no detailed explanation for this stance. He would rather we spend £1.90 on the Wetherby News for the privilege.

Alec has been in the limelight recently but continues to give constituents no warning of his appearances on local or national news. Apparently he was on the BBC Six O' Clock news recently talking about Endometriosis.

Alec's Recent Tweets. He has 16,100 followers - No Tweets about Wetherby since 12 March



21 Mar - Retweet of NATO Parliamentary Assembly

23 Mar (Spring Statement Day) - 9 Retweets from the Chancellor Rishi Sunak

Conservative MP for Pudsey, Stuart Andrew (20.1K followers) also made the same Retweets



Conservative MP for Skipton, Julian Smith (37.5K followers) made no Retweets from Sunak

23 Mar - Tweet of a finger pointing to an image, right

28 Mar - Tweet about Swillington Football Club

28 Mar - Two Retweets, one about Will Smith

Send us your views of our MP

MPs will receive a £2,200 pay rise from 1 April

23 Mar Tweet

Tackling the cost of living

- Fuel duty cut**
Frozen for 12 years, now cut by 5p
- £330 Tax Cut**
Earn up to £12,570 and pay no National Insurance or Income Tax
- Cutting Income Tax**
From 2024, basic rate will be cut from 20% to 19%
- Energy Bills Rebate**
Giving millions of households a rebate of £350
- National Living Wage increased**
A boost of over £1,000 a year
- UC taper reduced**
Extra £1,000 for 2 million families
- Licence fee frozen**
Frozen at £159, halting a rise to £180
- Doubling the Household Support Fund**
Helping families in need with £1 billion

Wetherby Town Council - Spotlight on Cllr Jo Maltby

We sent our questions (listed in Issue 12) to Cllr Maltby 6 weeks ago. We emailed again a couple of weeks later and got no response.

When Wetherby Free Press started we received good luck wishes from 7 of our 15 Conservative Town Councillors. Cllr Maltby was not one of them. We have not received any communication from her.

In the three sentences she has written for the biography part of the Town Council website, Cllr Maltby claims to have 'a passion for local and a determination to help small businesses get noticed'. Cllr Maltby has set up #wetherbyhour, a networking platform and also launched the 'Handpicked Local' brand.

The Elmet & Rothwell Conservative Association is included in her Register of Interests.

We wonder what Cllr Maltby thinks about Cllr Harry Chapman's assertion that our 100% Conservative Town Council is "non political".

We think it is common courtesy to respond to emails containing perfectly legitimate and reasonable questions. Of course, councillors have a right to not answer them, but to provide no reason for doing so shows a degree of arrogance and disrespect. We have a large readership who want to know what our councillors do and think. Cllr Maltby's colleagues have at least made some effort to respond. If you know why Cllr Maltby is taking this position, please tell us.

And any examples of good or poor council work carried out by Cllr Maltby on your behalf, we would like to hear about.



Image on Town Council website

General Town Council meetings are monthly (2nd Tues) with 7pm start

The last meeting was on 8 March and draft minutes are available on the Council's website. It lasted 40 minutes.

The next meeting is on Tues 12 April



News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

Please Donate in the Collection Boxes at Costello's, Bob Shop (Mason House Store) & Film Theatre



Wetherby Festival 2022

Plans are well advanced for the Wetherby Festival which starts on Friday 30 September and runs throughout the week. It is an annual and popular event running since 1977.

COVID 19 took its toll in 2020 and the Festival in 2021 was held on just a short weekend in the open air. Now the situation is improved, the 2022 Arts Festival will return to its normal format with indoor events at locations throughout Wetherby.



Festival Chair, Robert Haskins, said "The first Festival was held in the year of The Queen's Silver Jubilee, so it seems very appropriate that we will celebrate the full return of the Festival in the year of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee."

Mr. Haskins added, "We are lining up a fantastic programme. We are so grateful for the input received from members and supporters about what should be included. There will be an eclectic mix of musical events – an evening of folk music, a Rock Choir, the Wetherby Silver Band, acoustic musicians Fools Gold, and what should be a

lively evening at the Engine Shed with a fusion of jazz, country, swing and blues from the Swing Commanders. For those who particularly enjoy classical music, the Leeds Symphony Orchestra and the outstanding Midnight Quintet will be performing.

We have one line-up of well-known comedians already in the mix and another comedy evening in the planning. Our literary lunch, traditionally sponsored by solicitors HartLaw, will have two excellent speakers. There is lots more to come and I hope to be able to announce the full programme before too long".

For further information, please contact: Robert Haskins, by email to

chairman@wetherbyfestival.co.uk



If **Carlsberg** did photos....

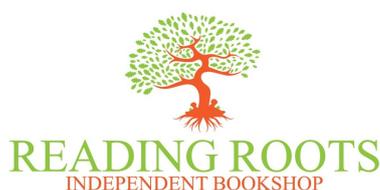
Peter Kay One-liners

"I've often wanted to drown my sorrows but I can't get my partner to go swimming"

"If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?"



"You're a Statistician too!
What are the chances of that?"



As featured in
The Sunday Times



A Book Club with the Author!

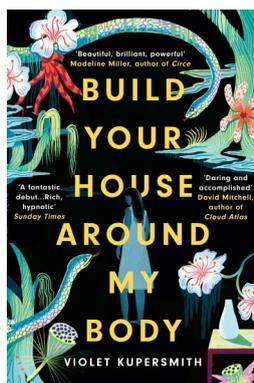
Reading Roots Bookshop runs a monthly book club (join in-person & online) where the author joins the conversation too!

Next meeting: Thurs 21st April, 7pm

Build Your House Around My Body by Violet Kupersmith

Recently been longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2022

Simply buy the book from the bookshop (with a 15% discount) and get added to the list!



Market Place, Wetherby

01937 918140 www.readingroots.co.uk



Boston Spa Gardening Society

Spring is a glorious time of year when you cannot miss the colourful array of blooming buds - particularly cherry blossom, crocus and daffodils of course.

If this has aroused your interest, why not pop along to a monthly meeting of the friendly and informal Boston Spa Gardening Society.

Their Spring season of talks continues with John Plant of Rewela Hostas, a specialist Hosta grower, located on the edge of the Howardian Hills.



The talk will cover how to grow and care for of these unique plants including what to do about slugs! And there will be plenty of lovely plants for sale straight from his nursery in Skewsby. It takes place

on **Wednesday 27th April**
at the **Deepdale Centre, Boston Spa**
Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start

New members, guests and old friends always welcome. For more details please see their Facebook Page or Nextdoor Forum.

Contact Hazel Wicks on 01937 845954

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- 1/2 page (size D) - £60 or £200 for 4
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Issue 17 - 15 Apr Full 1000 Print
 Issue 18 - 29 Apr
 Issue 19 - 13 May Full 1000 Print



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Record Breaking Year for Duck Food

Over 2,000 bags of 'Lucky Ducky' duck food have been sold in Wetherby in the 21/22 financial year. That is nearly 40 bags a week, which not only benefits the health of our bird life on the river, but also a local business and a charity shop.



Cancer Research and Treasure Toys both sold over 1000 of the £1 bags, which put over £500 into the coffers of the charity. They are very grateful to everyone who buys it and makes our ducks on the Wharfe the best fed in Yorkshire (if not the world!)

Consumer Corner

Shopping - Returning Goods

So you get home and find the item is defective ie not fit for purpose, not as described or not of satisfactory quality, to quote the Consumer Rights Act 2015.

You must return it within 30 days to get a full refund. Don't accept an exchange or vouchers if you don't want them.

If you discover the fault after 30 days but within 6 months, you must give the retailer the opportunity to fix the fault or offer a replacement at least once. If they can't rectify the problem, you can ask for a refund (called final right to reject goods).

If it's after 6 months, then it is YOUR responsibility to prove it was faulty when you bought it - not easy! So always check for faults when you buy if you can.



Real Life Example

A Wetherby resident bought 2 pairs of denim jeans from a well-known clothing retailer in a shop. They were similar but not the same. After just 3 months of normal wear (not for work) one pair developed a large split next to the back pocket. The resident was amazed as her jeans usually last minimum of a year. She took it back to the shop, who told them to contact customer services department from home, as it was after 30 days.



Ripped Jeans but not in the fashionable sense

So the resident contacted customer services (based in an Asian country) who told her to send an image of the receipt and defect to their complaints department. The complaints department told her to go to the shop for a refund. She had gone full circle!

Losing patience she contacted the Chief Executive of the company. Within a few hours, she received a phone call from someone who was properly trained and apologised profusely for the confusion and inconvenience. Without any more fuss, the resident was given a full refund plus a gesture of goodwill, which she gratefully accepted.



Find the email address of the Chief Executive of any company from www.ceomail.com and give the website a donation if you can.

Always be calm and polite on the phone and in emails, however frustrated you may be.

Usual Disclaimer - no responsibility for accuracy of article is assumed by author, or consequences of relying on it. It does not amount to legal advice. Get advice from lawyer if you need to etc.

No local law firm has so far come forward to write or sponsor this item, so Private Eye's favourite Messrs Sue, Grabbit & Runne are helping out!

Next Issue - Online Shopping

Send us your experiences or queries to WetherbyFreePress@pm.me





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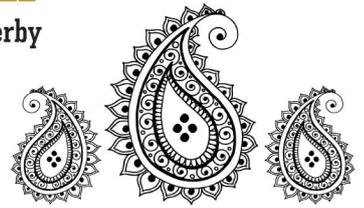
Read our reviews on TripAdvisor and follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @mangowetherby



INTERESTED IN INDIAN COOKING?

Join one of our Masterclasses this year, taught by Chef Rekha. We have a range of classes available from Beginners, Advanced to Dosa, Diwali and Christmas Specials.

Opening times: Wednesday to Saturday. Lunchtime Service: 12pm - 3pm.
Evening Service: 5pm till late (last booking at 8:30pm).



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www.mangovegetarian.co.uk

What's On

Engine Shed: www.engineshedwetherby.co.uk

Risk Assessment Workshop - 6 April

Details at www.sheqworx.co.uk/



Wetherby Film Theatre

www.wetherbyfilmtheatre.com

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2

THE BATMAN



Rating: 15

Duration:
2hrs 54mins

Batman ventures into Gotham City's underworld when a sadistic killer leaves behind a trail of cryptic clues. As the evidence begins to lead closer to home and the scale of the perpetrator's plans become clear, he must forge new relationships, unmask the culprit and bring justice to the abuse of power and corruption that has long plagued the metropolis.



Rating: PG

Duration:
1hr 50mins

The world's favourite blue hedgehog is back for a next-level adventure in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2. After settling in Green Hills, Sonic is eager to prove he has what it takes to be a true hero. His test comes when Dr. Robotnik returns, this time with a new partner, Knuckles, in search for an emerald that has the power to destroy civilisations. Sonic teams up with his own sidekick, Tails, and together they embark on a globe-trotting journey to find the emerald before it falls into the wrong hands.

Easter Eggstra at Tetley Field, St James Church

10 - 12 on Sat 9 April

A morning of craft, stories and fun activities for families to explore Easter

Got something to say? 7 Write to us and we'll print it

Sport

On a Friday in the middle of March, the two Leeds teams played big matches, both live on Sky Sports. At half time the Rhinos were leading in their match against Salford and United were losing 2 - 0 at Wolves and looking dead and buried. But sport can throw up some big surprises and by full time the situation was reversed.

In a quite incredible turn of events, Leeds Utd clawed their way back whilst the Rhinos scored no more tries and lost 26 - 12. This performance and only one win in six persuaded Coach Richard Agar, right, to resign a couple of days later.

United were helped by the sending off of a Wolves player but to score 3 goals and win the match was a fantastic feat and very exciting to watch.



We went to Leeds Victoria Casino (no membership needed and handy for the bus stop) to watch both

matches on the big screens, as shown in the image. Commentary was for the United match. United can feel much safer from relegation now. Their toughest matches before the end of the season are against Man City, Chelsea and Arsenal. Eight games left.



Agar Departed



Jamie Jones Buchanon led the Rhinos, as temporary manager, into the Challenge Cup match live on the BBC on 26 March. They had what can only be described as a nightmare in the first half against Castleford Tigers at Headingley. They scored no points and a sparse crowd booted them off the pitch, 28 points down.

They managed 3 tries in the end but lost 16 - 40 to Classy Cas.

Rhinos v St Helens on Fri 1 Apr at 20.00

Utd v Southampton on Sat 2 Apr at 15.00

Watford v Utd on Sat 9 Apr at 15.00

Rhinos v Huddersfield on Thurs 14 Apr at 20.00



Harrogate were back to winning ways as they scored 3 in their last game away at Scunthorpe. Seven games left.

Town v Colchester Utd on Sat 2 Apr at 15.00

Salford City v Town on Sat 9 Apr at 15.00

Town v Swindon Town on Fri 15 Apr at 15.00



York are in the play-off places for promotion from the National League North after a narrow home win against Yeovil. Ten games left. Come on City!

Kettering v City on Tues 5 Apr at 19.45

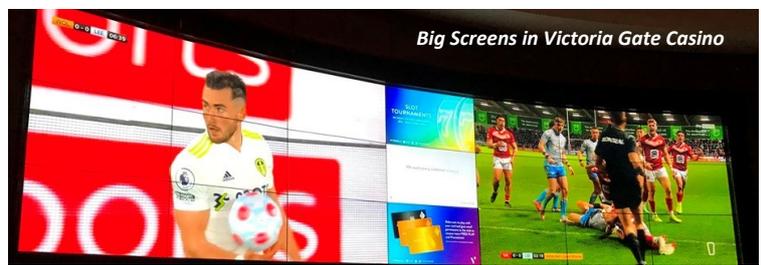
Brackley Town v City on Sat 9 Apr at 15.00

Chorley v City on Tues 12 Apr at 19.45

City v Spennymoor Town on Fri 15 Apr at 15.00

Wetherby Races Next Meet

Sun 24 Apr First Race 14.20
www.wetherbyracing.co.uk



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

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Fridays Every 2 Weeks - Online & Print

All people mentioned in the WFP have a right to reply. The reply will be published, usually unedited unless it is too long.

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

We quote directly to avoid any misunderstandings. We don't do spoken interviews - summarising what people say is a difficult skill and the interviewee will often not be happy with the result.

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, nor ourselves, can be sued for libel as long as what you say is

The Truth OR Honest Opinion OR in the Public Interest

People should think very carefully about these defences before sending unjustifiable threats to us. Trying to intimidate us without justification is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated. Unjustifiable threats of legal action that are made more than once could be used in a criminal case of harassment.



Useful Contact Info

W'by Town Council: 583584 www.wetherby.co.uk admin@wetherby.co.uk
Facebook: [wetherbycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wetherbycouncil) Twitter: [wetherbytc](https://twitter.com/wetherbytc)

Leeds City Council: 0113 222 4444 www.leeds.gov.uk
Facebook: [Leedscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Leedscouncil) Twitter: [LeedsCC_Help](https://twitter.com/LeedsCC_Help)

W'by Library: 583144 libraryenquiries@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Tourist Info: inside library 582151

W'by Leisure Centre: 0113 378 1265 wetherby.lc@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Health Centres: Hallfield Lane 585669
Crossley St 543200

Buses: Connexions: 01423 339600 www.connexionsbuses.com
First Leeds: 0345 646 0707 www.firstbus.co.uk/leeds

Harrogate Bus Co: 01423 56 60 61 www.transdevbus.co.uk/harrogate/

Metro: For all West Yorkshire bus times & all issues with bus stops, shelters and stations 0113 245 7676
www.wymetro.com

W'by Social Media: Facebook: Wetherby Grumbler 22,400 members

W'by Foodbank: info@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk
Twitter: [WBYFoodbank](https://twitter.com/WBYFoodbank)

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