



# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

## YOUR Community Newsletter

ISSUE 29 until Fri 14 Oct '22

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# Issue 1 Bus Crash - No Comment then. And now?

**Wetherby Bus Crash - No Comment or Details from Harrogate Bus Co!**

The image shows the horror of the bus crash, which happened on a Summer's evening in Wetherby Market Place. It is a miracle no one was injured or worse.

The accident happened in the early evening of Tuesday 27 July when thankfully the Paper Shop (Youngs) was closed. The CCTV footage shows 3 people on the Wetherby Whaler side just feet away from the bus and close to the pole that was knocked down.

Wetherby resident, Paul Hutchinson, was one of them and pulled a lady away from the pole. The lady's daughter, Richard Tones, later thanked him on a Wetherby Facebook Group for his quick-thinking actions and confirmed that her mother was shaken but otherwise fine. They were both very grateful to him.

Paul described the experience: "I was standing outside the Wetherby Whaler facing the shop when I heard the bus strike the white car. I turned and saw the bus accelerating across the road towards the paper shop. It then collided with the blue car travelling towards the roundabout and at that point, I could see that it was also going to hit the car that was parked in the disabled bay. Not knowing if that car was going to be pushed towards us, I grabbed the lady standing next to me and pulled her out of the way just in case. Fortunately, the bus only caught that car a glancing blow before it demolished the signpost and the front of the paper shop. On the plus side however, my fish and chips were lovely."

Apart from witness statements, information on this accident has been sparse. From the images we can tell it is a number 7 service from Wetherby to Harrogate run by the Harrogate Bus Company. There was one Tweet on the company's Twitter account: "Following this evening's incident in Wetherby we can report normal routes on @the7 cont'd overleaf

Inside: What's On TRANSPORT NEWS and more local news

Stories, Issues, Views, Ads, Info, Offers of Help? Editor Paul Kirby  
 WetherbyFreePress@PM.me @WbyFreePress Facebook

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We Googled it and found nothing has been written about this serious accident in the past year. It could easily have killed someone and it left many witnesses very shook up. They deserve an explanation, or some sort of comment at the very least, and so do residents.

**Alex Hornby, MD of Transdev, operator of Harrogate Bus Company.** We asked him for any information and comment. We said we understand if there are legal reasons for not saying much about it but he declined to say anything at all. However, Alex sent us information about the X98/99 route Transdev are taking over, see page 6.

**Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington.** We said: "Please could you inform us of any information about the crash you are aware of, and comment on the incident and the lack of information about it from the authorities and bus company." The Councillors did not respond.

cont'd Page 2

**New Dawn for The Angel?**

JD Wetherspoon to buy it

Page 3

Which Charities Deserve Your Cash?

Page 5

Wasted Asset

**2000**

**read WFP last month**

Proof on Page 7



# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

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

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Sponsorship on front page - £25

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Issue 30 - Fri 14 Oct

Issue 31 - Fri 28 Oct

Issue 32 - Fri 11 Nov



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## What's On



**Collingham  
Autumn  
Craft Market**

Collingham Memorial Hall

**Sunday 16th October**

10am-4pm  
Free Entry



## Sundays - Wetherby Racecourse



**We are the Friendliest**

**Opens 7am**

£1 entry for buyers over 16s

**Sellers: from 6am** No booking necessary  
£12 cars, £16 vans, +£3 trailers

Please have exact money. Dogs on leads welcome

Ample parking, refreshments & toilets Postcode is LS22 5EJ



A family-run, award-winning  
Vegetarian Indian Restaurant.  
SPECIALISING IN VEGAN AND GLUTEN-FREE DISHES.



**Yorkshire Post Sep '22 - 'Still Excelling'**

NOW ACCEPTING OUTSIDE CATERING ORDERS FOR EVENTS UP TO 200 PEOPLE  
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).



**MANGO RESTAURANT**

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## Front Page - Still in the Dark about Bus Crash

**Leeds North East - W Yorks Police.** We asked the police for any information about the incident. The division led by Insp Richard Horn did not respond.

**Harrogate (Wetherby) News.** This story was originally put on an inside page and nothing reported since. Alex Hornby still writes for the paper.

### Comment

*This is a perfect example of why Wetherby needs an independent, enquiring news source. The bus company and police have shown no respect for the concept of accountability and openness this country is proud of. Do they have something to hide or do they simply think they have no responsibility at all to the residents of Wetherby?*

*For the councillors to provide no information, reassurance or opinion about this incident is disappointing, to say the least.*

**Why not write and ask them yourself? (copy us in)** - Emails: [nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk](mailto:nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk), [linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk), [norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk), [alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk), [happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk](mailto:happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk), [news@wetherbynews.co.uk](mailto:news@wetherbynews.co.uk)



The Accident in July 2021. Image Amanda Harper

Send Your Events, News & Views **2** to [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

# Your Charity Donation - Who Deserves It?

**Sadly, there is a greater demand than ever for our charities.** More reasons appear almost every week to help those less fortunate than ourselves. In the UK the difference between rich and poor seems to get wider. Who would have thought Wetherby in the so-called Golden Triangle would need a foodbank, and one with ever-increasing demand?

Compared to many countries in the world though, we are fortunate in many ways - we don't suffer life-threatening natural disasters, like earthquakes, fires or tornados. So, it's always a tough decision for those of us who can afford to help - where should our money go?

**You may think all charities are deserving but that is simply not true.** Their cause may be deserving but the people running the charity may only have their own interests at heart. There are stupid, incompetent, lazy and bad people in every profession and part of society; just look at the number of Police Officers found guilty of serious offences in recent months, and the scandalous behaviour of priests in one of the Churches; the ultimate betrayal by so-called 'Christians'.

**Sociopaths/Bad people are everywhere, yes, even in Wetherby.** They are attracted to positions where there is weak monitoring and regulation. They rely on people assuming their motives are good, simply because they do charity work. This is a foolish assumption to make. Most are good, of course, but some aren't. The best, or rather worst, example of this is Jimmy Savile. A truly shocking case.

**No qualifications are required to work in the charity sector, or to become a Trustee charity.** There is nothing to stop a cosy closed-shop of management and Trustees getting together, for example chums from the local golf club or belonging to the same political party.

**You may think the Charity Commission monitors charities closely - you would be wrong. It is scandalous that charities have minimal scrutiny.** It is the weakest of watchdogs and will not investigate any charity unless you have clear proof of wrong-doing (in which case you would go to the Police!).

**Charities can run themselves in any way they want,** including spending money on themselves (promotion reviews, non-frontline staff and equipment) instead of services or service users.

**The Charity Commission does not require charities to:**

- \* have any policies or procedures
- \* make any of their policies accessible to the public
- \* have any performance targets
- \* have any minimum standards

**Charities have a very lax regulatory system,** for often multi-million pound businesses. All that charities have to do is produce a financial report every year. In it they can write the same waffle year after year without any performance targets or achievements stated.

**There will inevitably be more scandals,** like the ones involving Oxfam & Save the Children staff in 2018, and the collapse of the Kids Company costing us £Millions seven years ago. The Editor wrote to our Conservative MP Alec Shelbrooke about the total lack of proper monitoring of the charity sector, providing him with examples. He did nothing.

**So, don't be naïve or lazy. It is your responsibility to do a little research.** Here's a list of questions you should consider:

- ⇒ Does the charity website contain: a brief description of all employed staff & Trustees? Is it full of 'donate here' buttons?
- ⇒ Does it contain their policies and procedures? If so, read one and see if it is reasonable and covers all eventualities
- ⇒ Is there a link to the Annual Report to the Charity Commission? Check it for targets and achievements
- ⇒ Are they already well-funded eg from the local authority? Check expenditure on admin & services
- ⇒ Ensure there are policies on Recruitment, Complaints, Safeguarding, Social media, Data Protection (GDPR)
- ⇒ Compare the charity to a similar one in a nearby town, if possible
- ⇒ Do they have an annual meeting where the public can attend and ask questions?
- ⇒ Are they a small team but spend money on a PR person?
- ⇒ Try to find out how much the Chief Executive is paid (average of largest 100 is £170K in 2021)
- ⇒ Google them to see if they have had any bad publicity

**If you have any doubts about a charity,** then give your hard-earned cash to a more deserving organisation. There are plenty of excellent ones out there. You cannot go wrong with these organisations that spend the minimum on management, admin and advertising:

**Samaritans** [www.Samaritans.org](http://www.Samaritans.org)

**Salvation Army** [www.SalvationArmy.org.uk](http://www.SalvationArmy.org.uk)

**Christian Aid** [www.ChristianAid.org.uk](http://www.ChristianAid.org.uk) "86p in every £1 is used for direct charitable purposes"

**If you shop with Amazon,** use their address

[www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and they will donate 0.5% of your purchases to a charity of your choice. It costs you nothing.

**Or give something other than money. Like food to Wetherby Foodbank. Or your time volunteering in a shop or depot. It is very fulfilling work, and you can make some good friends.**



*Kids Company collapsed in 2015 after being given £42m of taxpayers money*



**Are you a philanthropist?**

**3**

**Plse help us continue**

# Wetherby Arts Festival

## What's On Day-By-Day

DATE/TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET PRICE
Fri 30 Sept 7.30pm	Call My Wine Bluff	St. James Church Centre	£14
Sat 1 Oct 7.30pm	Wetherby Silver Band & The Rock Choir	St. James Church	£10
Sun 2 Oct 2pm	Civic Society Walk	Wetherby Bandstand	Free but please donate!
Sun 2 Oct 7.30pm	Comedy Night: Neil Delamere and Alfie Moore	Town Hall	£25
Mon 3 Oct 7.30pm	The Chorus Crew Barbershop	Methodist Church	£6
Mon 3 Oct 6.30 for 7.00pm	Supper and Midnight Quintet	The Bridge Hotel, Walshford	£35 including meal and Bucks Fizz
Tues 4 Oct 4pm-5pm	Children's interactive workshop	St. James Church Centre	£5 (adult and 2 children)
Wed 5 Oct 2pm	Hues of Autumn by Clair from Nicolla Florist	St. James Church Centre	£10
Wed 5 Oct 7.30pm	An Evening with Fools Gold	Methodist Church	£6
Thurs 6 Oct 7.30pm	Swing Commanders	Engine Shed	£15
Thurs 6 Oct 2pm	Wetherby, Past, Present and Future	St. James Church Centre	Free but please donate!
Fri 7 Oct 12.00 noon	Literary lunch	The Bridge Hotel, Walshford	£30 including lunch
Fri 7 Oct 7.30pm	Bad Apple Theatre: Yorkshire Kernel	St. James Church Room (Scout Hut)	£10
Fri 7 Oct 7.30pm	Feast of Folk	Rugby Club, Grange Park	£10
Sat 8 Oct 7.30pm	Leeds Symphony Orchestra	St. James Church	£12.50
Sun 9 Oct 7.30pm	Really Funny Comedy Presents... Fin Taylor, Scott Bennett, Lou Conran and Micky P. Kerr	Rugby Club, Grange Park	£18

You can book on-line or in person at the Festival Box Office in the Town Hall foyer from 15th September (10.00-12.00)

OUR SPONSORS:



This Festival is run entirely by volunteers.

## 'Successful' Eco-Energy Fair

### Coping with the Energy Crisis

This event took place at Wetherby Town Hall on Sat 24 Sept.

Several presentations provided practical advice and tips on saving energy, retrofitting insulation, installing low carbon solar and heat pumps, renewable energy and other topics.

The various displays attracted considerable interest from the large number of visitors.

If you missed it, the *Boston Spa, Wetherby and Villages Community Green Group* will be sharing as much information on their website ([bostongreengroup.co.uk](http://bostongreengroup.co.uk)) shortly, with further details to follow of future events to help everyone save money, energy and the environment.

Event organiser, Penny Stables said, "It's a real concern that many people are struggling to pay energy costs at a time when inflation is at its highest for decades. Our aim in putting on this event was to provide people with practical ideas and tips to help them cope with the dramatic increase in energy costs. It was pleasing that so many people came along. Hopefully, they went away better informed about the steps they can take to conserve energy and keep their costs manageable".



Penny Stables

## Wetherspoon's Confirmation - You Heard it from the Editor First!

York Press reported it 2 days later (nothing in Yorkshire Post / Evening Post or Wetherby News!)



'Spoons' Boss Tim Martin

Sant Angelo, formerly The Angel pub

**Rumours about Sant Angelo selling to the JD Wetherspoon pub chain were finally confirmed** on 25 Sept, the day the restaurant closed. The Editor was informed by Wetherspoons and immediately passed the information on to residents and businesses via social media. JD Wetherspoon wrote:

"Paul, finally! Trust this is of interest.

Wetherspoon can confirm it has exchanged contracts to purchase Sant' Angelo in High Street, Wetherby. The company aims to complete the transaction in early October.

Wetherspoon is set to invest £2.25 million developing the site into a Wetherspoon pub, with the creation of 50 – 60 jobs.

The company will need to obtain planning and licensing permission before the development can take place."

Ten days before the Wetherspoons email, Sant Angelo announced their closure. They did not mention Wetherspoons at all. They said "No time has been as hostile to the survival of small businesses as now. From COVID to Brexit to staff shortages to spiralling gas and electricity prices, with the best will in the world we cannot keep operating in this

environment. So, with great regret, we have decided to close our doors and retire."

The news created an avalanche of comments about Wetherspoons on social media, both for and against.

**Issue 6 of WFP described the only research** carried out on the effects of a new pub. It suggested a positive effect for other businesses, and even for the other pubs and restaurants because of the extra customers it attracts.

**The WFP asked Knaresborough & Otley Facebook groups** for any evidence of pubs closing because of 'Spoons. Nobody could name a single closure and most comments were very positive about their presence.

**A new 'Spoons should encourage all pubs and bars in our town to up their game.** They should promote their friendliness, special offers, pool, food and other Unique Selling Points. In particular, the pubs that show live football & rugby league should take advantage of the fact and promote it.

*Latest - JD Wetherspoon is selling 32 pubs, including the Percy Shaw in Halifax (the one with great views of the hills & bus station)*



We have given our Conservative MP, Alec Shelbrooke, the chance to say anything he wants to his Wetherby constituents. He has not taken it up at any point in the last year.

We now give the same opportunity to our 15 Conservative Wetherby Town Councillors, especially the 3 that represent us on Labour-run Leeds City Council.

If they don't want to take this up either, we invite their supporters to provide specific examples where they have helped you. You can't say fairer than that, can you? We are bending over backwards to print positive things about our Councillors!



**Space for Alec. Unedited (max 400 words)**

**Wetherby Issues, Cost of Living, His New Job & Support for Liz Truss?**

**Space for Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington**

**(& other Cllrs / their supporters) Unedited (max 400 words)**



Cllr Victor Hawkins, Chair of Welcome to Wetherby, has not responded to our article in Issue 27. He wanted an apology for the article in Issue 26 about mugs they bought for the Platinum Jubilee. We found precisely nothing to apologise for and requested our own apology for wasting our time. He has yet to explain the discrepancies in the £816 / £980 figures, nor addressed other points we raised.

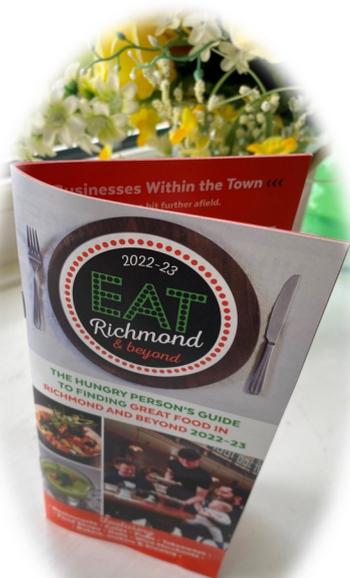
## **Wonderful River Asset Wasted - Overgrown, Unloved & Vandalised**



This is the *Welcome to Wetherby* you receive when you park in the Leisure Centre car park and walk into town. A few years ago the Editor raised the terrible state of the path and its potential to be a lovely seating area. When nothing happened, he took his tools down there and cleared the path himself.

Why is this not a priority for the *Town Council*, *Welcome to Wetherby*, *Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd* or whoever is responsible for the state of this area?

This is a fantastic asset and has so much potential for a peaceful retreat with a perfect view of the weir. Look at the golden effect on the weir when the sun is on it, see right.



## **Eat Wetherby Booklet?**

The publication, left, promotes the food and drink places in the town of Richmond, N Yorks. Its 44 pages features every restaurant, café, pub, takeaway, deli, baker with a very useful map. It is professionally produced with adverts from other shops, the theatre and the cinema to help pay for it. It is very useful for residents and visitors alike.

**Three questions: 1 Why has one never been produced for Wetherby?**

**2 Wouldn't £1000 spent on mugs be better spent on this?**

**3 Does the *Town Council* / *Welcome to Wetherby* / *Wetherby Business Association* etc have the ability and motivation to produce or coordinate such a simple piece of marketing?**

Where else would you get information **5** and comment like in WFP?

# TRANSPORT NEWS



## Cost of Unleaded

Correct on Thurs 29 Sep to nearest penny

Shell £1.70

Morrisons £1.69

Harrogate Sainsburys £1.59

Difference b/w Shell & Sainsburys to fill average tank of 55 litres is £6.05

**Craig Temple of Connexions Buses**, operator of the 412 Wetherby to York tells us 'it is likely to be withdrawn when the current round of BRG funding finishes', which is the end of March 2023.

**There are currently 6 buses a day taking about 30 minutes** to reach York via Tockwith. There is no evening or Sunday service, and currently no Saturday service due to the driver shortage. This is an important route as it would take about 1.5 hours to reach York by public transport without this direct route, and at a large cost.

The government promised £3bn for buses. This is a service from Wetherby that should be improved, not lost altogether.

**We asked Wetherby's 3 Leeds City Councillors** what they could do to prevent the loss of the 412. They have not responded or given us any views on this vital service yet.

## Warning over Future of Bus to York



The Ferrari will get you to York quicker but which has the better views?

## First Leeds quits X98/99 Route. Transdev from Sun 2 Oct



First Leeds bus on Wetherby Bridge



**All FirstBus tickets will be accepted for the first 2 weeks (until 16 Oct).**

**Cost:** Transdev fares will have the same maximum fares introduced recently: £2 for any trip and the all-operator day ticket at £4.50 within West Yorkshire.

**Buses:** Transdev say their double-deckers will have next stop information, high-back airline seating with tables, free WiFi and USB charging at every seat.

**Drivers:** There will be regular drivers as Transdev know that passengers 'appreciate this familiar, friendly brand of service'.

**Timetable:** They will maintain the same timetable and route as currently (except the 23.10 W'by to Leeds)

**Future:** They have ambition for the route and think it is 'ripe for further improvement'.

Their app is *Transdev Go*.



### Better Service expected

The new operator has a deserved reputation for excellent marketing and customer service. So the library will always be stocked with quality printed timetables and maps, and we should have friendlier, more communicative drivers. The current driver shortage could be a problem but their Cityzap Leeds - York service is ending & buses / drivers transferred. Let's hope Transdev make the excellent Metro paper available.

**First Leeds used their highest spec. quality buses** on our route but did little promotion encouraging car owners to try it. They also seemed to do little about the poor customer service experience provided by Metro/WYCA (bus stop farce, real time, printed timetables & maps) but First ran a fully double-decker, reliable service at a reasonable price. And they had made some recent improvements to it - later buses, extensions to Deighton Bar, onboard next stop displays and announcements. The Editor wrote to First Leeds management to thank them for a generally good service over the years.

**It's in everybody's interests, especially car owners,** that we have an excellent bus service to Leeds. Not just because it is good for the environment, reduces social isolation etc but because it means fewer queues and cars on the road. Let's hope these luxury buses bring about the same success as Transdev's Harrogate to Leeds 36 route (which has a direct rail connection as competition) and tempt motorists out of their vehicles.



Inside Transdev's 36 in 2016

# (No) Wetherby News

Office with 3+ Staff  
Photo taken in 2008



In the last issue we described how the 'Wetherby Community News' was not an outlet for serious news and views; it is mostly a *What's On*.

We were disappointed because a strong independent local news source is vital for democracy. It should report the facts without fear or favour. Can anyone seriously suggest that the *Wetherby News* has ever taken on that mantle - of challenging and asking difficult questions of our local organisations and public representatives? If you have any examples, please send them to us.

The *Harrogate News* (let's call it what it is) seems to have given up on the simple reporting of much of our news. The edition on 15 September had no news items about Wetherby. We couldn't find a single one. Yes, the Queen had died but surely something else had happened in Wetherby worth mentioning. This week's edition had one item of news and had no mention of Wetherspoons. Many issues have no letters written by Wetherby residents, which begs the question 'how many people actually buy it?'

We need a strong press in Wetherby, as we think the *Free Press* has undoubtedly proved - showing there are plenty of stories worth pursuing, especially with our Town Council. There are many town organisations that will not engage with the *Free Press*. You have to ask yourselves why. In one case we asked a simple question about whether they are funded by any public money and the shutters went up.

The *Harrogate News* has a Readers Charter: "This newspaper is built on a tradition of accuracy and fairness, giving you the information you need to understand our world, holding power to account and exposing injustice". Are they serious? Again, please can anyone give us one example of them 'holding power to account and exposing injustice' in Wetherby. They have ignored all the issues the *Wetherby Free Press* stories have raised in the past year. How many Freedom of Information requests have they sent on our behalf to public bodies to make sure taxpayers' money is being spent wisely in our town?



We wanted to know if anybody was willing to defend the *Harrogate News* so we had a moan on the *Wetherby Grumbler* Facebook group (24,000 members) and *Nextdoor*. Their supporters were not forthcoming; nothing even from the councillors or organisations who use it for their PR. So the Editor wrote to the newspaper (and the *Yorkshire Post/Evening Post* Editors) saying it's time for a new start. We said the *Wetherby Free Press* would love to stop criticising them but they have to start acting like a proper newspaper, which will probably increase their readership. The Editor told them they have his permission to use all *Wetherby Free Press* content and images. There are many serious issues they can get stuck into, especially the behaviour of some of our councillors. We suggested they investigate a particular story that we haven't had time to look into yet.

They have not responded. So, it looks like they will not change. We can't see the *Harrogate News*, costing £1.90, lasting long into 2023. Let's hope another media company buys it (again), introduces a new culture and we get a much better quality paper.

We want the *Wetherby News* to continue, believe it or not! The *Free Press* could be gone tomorrow, for any number of reasons - ill health, family circumstances changing, who knows? Wetherby is a town that needs a news publication that investigates and reports on public issues. Every healthy democracy needs a local press that holds people to account. And one that compares the town with other similar ones nearby. It should be an impetus for higher standards and change for the better.

At this time the *WFP* is the only news source in Wetherby that is doing this.



More and More  
Readers - Thank You!

The latest figures show that the number of online readers is increasing, see right.

Add to that the number who read one of our 1000 printed copies and there are many 1000s every month.

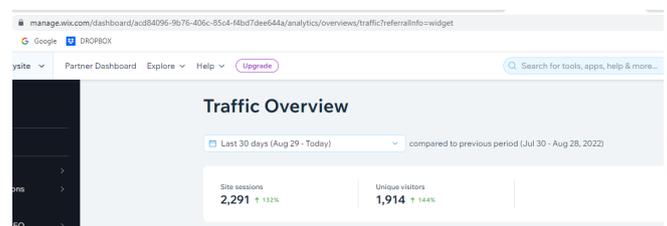
This shows that there is an appetite for a publication like ours.

Local businesses (for advertising), Councillors, MP & Town Groups / Organisations, please take note.

Figures for Month 29 Aug - 26 Sept 2022

2,300 visits online 1,900 unique visitors

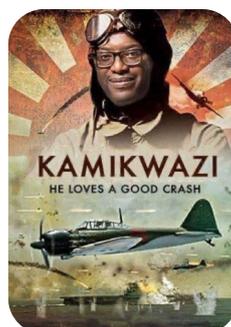
(1000 printed copies every month)



You're having a larf!

A man just threw milk, cream and butter at me.  
How dairy!

Last night I had a dream that I was swimming in  
an ocean of orangeade. I guess it was just a  
Fanta sea.



My wife left me because I'm obsessed with  
Africa! Kenya believe it? This divorce is Ghana be  
so hard on our son Chad. It's all so Sudan.

Some joker  
glued my  
pack of cards  
together.  
I'm having trouble  
dealing with it.



It's Very Simple - You Write it, we Print it. It's Your Newsletter.



## Super League Grand Final

Leeds Rhinos 12 - 24 St Helens

Leeds can have no complaints about the final result. St Helens were worthy winners of the title and have been the best team all season.

The omens were good for the Saints as they headed for half-time 12 - 0 up. But Leeds put up a good fight and gave their fans hope by scoring a try just before the break.



Leaming scores just before half-time

Saints were too strong in the second half though, and the victory at the home of Manchester United was not in doubt.



A crowd of nearly 61,000 watched the match at Old Trafford, an impressive figure by any measure. But the *seriousaboutrl.com* website pointed out that it is a good 13,000 less than the Leeds - Wigan final in 2015.

Emotions run high after high tackle One factor could be the cost of living crisis, though tickets for a final are reasonably priced (£50 for a decent seat), especially compared to a football match.

Rugby League gets less of a look in on local and national media these days so the general public aren't aware of it. The WFP asked national treasure and President of the RFL Clare Balding to use her influence to remedy this with her media colleagues. Our Tweet got 800 views.



ROHAN SMITH  
Head Coach, Leeds Rhinos  
"second best but proud of team"

One thing is for sure though; the effort and entertainment on the field is not the reason. It has been an enthralling season with many surprises along the way.



Leeds United have had a month to prepare for their televised game against Villa. This has allowed many key players to return from injury. Expected to be fit are captain Cooper, Ayling and Bamford.



Patrick Bamford

Utd v Aston Villa on Sun 2 Oct at 16.30



Crystal Palace v Utd on Sun 9 Oct at 14.00



Harrogate in League 2 are sixth from bottom of their table.

Town v Bradford City on Sat 1 Oct at **13.00**

Town v Everton U21 on Tues 4 Oct at 19.00

- EFL Trophy

Colchester Utd v Town on Sat 8 Oct at 15.00



National League York City lost their last game at home but are still in the top half of the table.

Barnet v City on Sat 1 Oct at 15.00

FC Halifax v City on Tues 4 Oct at 19.45

City v Torquay Utd on Sat 8 Oct at 15.00

City v Dagenham & Redbridge on Tues 11 Oct at 19.45



Email: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me) Twitter: [@WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

Everyone mentioned in the WFP has a right to reply. The reply will be published 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 can remain anonymous if you wish. You, nor ourselves, can be sued for libel as long as what is published is:

**True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest**

*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.*

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# Thank You



The Dove of Truth

KEEP CALM  
AND  
DON'T SHOOT  
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## Useful Contact Info

W'by Town Council: 583584 [www.wetherby.co.uk](http://www.wetherby.co.uk) [admin@wetherby.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:libraryenquiries@leeds.gov.uk)

W'by Tourist Info: inside library 582151

W'by Leisure Centre: 0113 378 1265 [wetherby.lc@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:wetherby.lc@leeds.gov.uk)

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

Buses: Connexions: 01423 339600 [www.connexionsbuses.com](http://www.connexionsbuses.com)

First Leeds: 0345 646 0707 [www.firstbus.co.uk/leeds](http://www.firstbus.co.uk/leeds)

Harrogate Bus Co: 01423 56 60 61 [www.transdevbus.co.uk/harrogate/](http://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](http://www.wymetro.com)

W'by Social Media: Facebook: Wetherby Grumbler 24,000+ members

W'by Foodbank: [info@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

Twitter: [WBYFoodbank](https://twitter.com/WBYFoodbank)

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