



ISSUE 56 - until 19 Jan 2024

YOUR Community Newsletter

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

Promo copies at *Morrisons, Pubs, Cafés, Bob Shop, Mason House Stores, Library, Dentists, Care Homes, Shops, Churches, Health Centres*

 **Contents overleaf** 



 **Happy New Year** 

to our 1000s of Readers - Let's Make Wetherby a Better Place in 2024

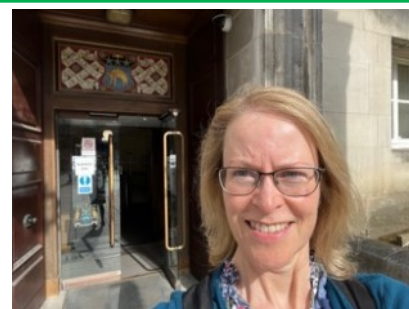
Our Highlight of 2023

Domination of a town by one political party is not a desirable thing,

whatever party it is. We need open discussion and opposing views without which things get stale. As national politics has shown, the public want change as they realise nothing is improving on the important issues and our bills and taxes keep rising. Even small and large 'c' conservative Wetherby & area realised this when they voted in the area's first Green Party candidate onto Leeds City Council.

Penny Stables, right, won by a majority of over 1000 votes over Linda Richards. Issue 44 reported that Wetherby had the highest turnout in all of Leeds at 46%, thus proving there is no voter complacency at City Council level. We are pleased that Penny has fully engaged with the Free Press and gave us a list of her priorities, which we will give a progress check after a year.

The low level of public interest in Town Council matters in 2022 was shown by nobody bothering to turn up for the Annual General Meeting. 2023 saw an improvement with 10 residents attending when an 80% increase in Council Tax precept was forced upon us, some said without a full and clear explanation. In 2022 the Council was all Conservative but since then many have resigned and there was an opportunity for the more independently-minded to contribute. The Editor has seen no obvious improvement in standards, communication or accountability yet but we have real hope in 2024 that improvements will be made when the new Councillors find their feet and voice.



Cllr Penny Stables - a breath of fresh air

Alec Shelbrooke receives a knighthood off

Liz Truss for public and political service as Minister of State for Defence Procurement and our MP. He was a Minister for less than 2 months. Alec can use 'Sir' in his title. The 'Wetherby News' has not reported this. Reaction on page 4.



We Review the Good, the Bad & the Weird of Jan - Mar '23



Send your News & Views to: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me X: [WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

Contents

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

Possible Library Cuts Page 8

Tree Down on Xmas Eve Page 8

Review of Jan - Mar 2023 Page 5

TRANSPORT NEWS Page 3

Buses: Blocked again, Boss on TV, Survey

Apply to Be Town Cllr by 12 Jan Page 8



2 Defeats & 2 Wins Page 10

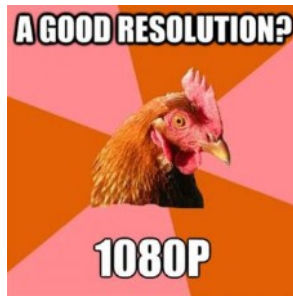


Where does a fan of maths go to celebrate New Year? Times Square

Definition of a New Years Resolution: Something that goes in one year and out the other.

My resolution was to read more, so I turned on the subtitles on my TV.

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.



I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

I MADE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO DRINK MORE WATER.

So far I've only gotten as far as "Drink More."



A phone and a firework were arrested at New Year's. One was charged, the other was let off.

Wetherby 'No News' News

The last 2 issues from our professional journalists had NO news items about Wetherby or Boston Spa. Yes, not one.

National World Newspapers - you are not just having a larf but taking the ****!

THIS IS WHY WE ARE NEEDED. We aren't perfect but we are all Wetherby has.

If you get all your news from social media, good luck in finding the real stories amongst all the misinformation and propaganda. It is currently flooded with too much stuff, and duplication from our local politicians doesn't help. At least we try to be balanced and will print all views.

The funniest thing of all is that they charge £2.10 for no Wetherby news



Wetherby Town Council Meeting - Dec

13/15 Councillors and no residents were present. Leeds City Cllrs Lamb & Stables were present. It lasted 2 hours.

Car Park Charging Proposals: 12 voted against them and one Cllr abstained. *Reasons for their introduction or any context were not provided in the minutes. The 2 Council Officers present must surely have described the reasons for these proposals. Seven concerns from Cllrs were described. Incomplete minuting it seems to us.*

Reports from Ward Councillors Funding has been secured to allow a mobile ANPR camera at the junction of Castle Gate and Market Place. This would hopefully deter and prevent inappropriate parking which causes an obstruction and prevents buses using the road. *ABOUT TIME TOO! Over 2 years until something has been done about this problem.* Hallfield Lane and the Wattlesyke roundabout have been brought forward for resurfacing works. They are now marked for urgent attention, hopefully before the end of the current financial year.

Single-Use Plastic Free Status Assistant Clerk to audit all council work to identify where single use plastics are used and how they could be replaced by suitable alternatives. As a first step on this journey a milkman will deliver milk to the Town Hall in glass bottles from the start of 2024. *It is not stated how extra much this will cost. cont'd in next issue*



Next Meeting is Tues 9 Jan at 7pm. You fancy going along and giving us your impressions of it?

Lucky Ducky Duck Food

from CANCER RESEARCH UK & TREASURES Toys **OPEN SUNDAYS**



Keep Informed Wetherby Facebook Pages

As well as the excellent *Wetherby Free Press* Facebook page there is the *Wetherby Deserves Better* page too. Both are edited entirely separately from the newsletter Follow & Don't get FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)



Bus Survey for Town's Workers - Complete by Fri 19 Jan

Leeds City Councillor Penny Stables (Green Party) is carrying out a survey to gather information about the provision of bus services to enable people to get to work. She has sent letters many businesses across Wetherby, Boston Spa & Thorp Arch. She encourages all business owners and staff to complete the survey. "The more data we have the stronger our argument for buses that get us where we want to go and arrive when we need to get there!", she says.

The questionnaire can be accessed via bit.ly/BusTravel23 or scan the QR Code here: As well as minimal contact information, questions included on the questionnaire are:

- ⇒ How do you get to work currently?
- ⇒ Would you consider travelling to work by bus?
- ⇒ If you don't already travel by bus, what stops you doing so?

Once the information has been gathered, Cllr Stables will share it with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) / Metro, to feed into their consultation and try to improve our local bus services.

The survey closes on Fri 19 Jan.



The 4 buses a day No. 8 to Knaresborough



Scan me

Morrisons Petrol Now Cheaper than Harrogate Asda!

Wow! From being the most expensive supermarket fuel in the area by a large margin, Morrisons is now the cheapest around, by 3 pence for unleaded in early Jan.



What a turnaround! It makes you wonder if there was another reason for the 10p difference not so long ago (apart from profiteering) but let's hope the current price strategy continues for a long time.



Bus Blocking - It's Happened Yet Again! Still Nothing Done to Stop It

On the morning of Wed 3 Jan, not one but two vehicles blocked the station exit by parking near Moji's pizza place. It caused delays and cancellations of at least 3 buses and spoil the day off of the Editor's hard-working neighbour.



Large Signs & Repaint Double Yellow Lines. Not Rocket Science

As we said in March 2023, why can't councillors get those responsible to repaint the

double yellow lines (or preferably red) and add some big red warning signs with large penalties clearly stated. This problem will keep on happening until something is done. Promises are made but we don't believe them until we see them delivered, and they are effective. Why should we believe them when it has taken so long for it to even get on the radar of the Town Council?

Meanwhile you cannot trust the bus to get you to an important appointment in Harrogate, Leeds or York. That is a great shame.



How ironic! This sign is inside the bus station where it is not needed. Why has the Town Council or Leeds City Council or WYCA / Metro not put one (or 5) a few metres away where it is needed?



Dec 2021 - 2 Years Ago

Connexions Boss Fears Closure if Franchising Happens

Local Bus Manager Craig Temple featured on BBC Look North expressing his fears about franchising which the Labour Mayor Tracy Brabin wants to bring in. He told reporter Spencer Stokes that the smaller independent bus companies could be wiped off the map as the bigger companies are usually awarded the contracts and his company Connexions would not be allowed to compete on the profitable routes. A consultation finishes soon on the Mayor's proposals. A decision is to be made in late Spring. Connexions currently run the 412 to York (not Saturdays) and the 923 to Otley (not Saturdays). Would you miss Connexions? Is it fair that the system of franchising means small, locally-based companies are not able to compete with multi-nationals owned by foreign investors? Tell us your views.



Craig Temple
Managing Director, Connexions Buses
LOOK NORTH

MP Alec Shelbrooke - Quiet about his Knighthood

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13.5 years since May 2010.

In 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer.

From Dec '19 to 21 June 2023 he has voted 640 times out of 817 (78%) In that time he has rebelled twice against the party whip. *Source - www.publicwhip.org.uk/*

He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the party's No-Confidence Vote.

Alec was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle. Prime Minister Truss promoted him to a junior ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked after 49 days, the same length of time his boss lasted in post.

In June 2023 Alec voted for the Privileges Committee report which stated that Boris Johnson repeatedly misled parliament ie knowingly lied about parties in Downing Street whilst the rest of us had to follow the rules.

Source - www.theyworkforyou.com/



Very Old Photo
Alec still uses

Space for Alec to Say Anything to Constituents

(Unedited, max 400 words)

Nothing received
since we began 2+ years ago

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Arise Sir Alec!

Yes, our MP has been awarded the one of the highest knighthood honours; the Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE), which entitles him to be addressed as "Sir" and the items on the right. It was given to him by Liz Truss who was Prime Minister for less than 2 months, making him a minister in the MoD. Alec tweeted his support for her more than 250 times in a 2-month period. The announcement was made on 29 December. His social media:



17,000+ Followers. **NO MENTION** on the day or since!



Over 2,900 Followers. **SAME**

We found this rather odd. Being given one of the highest honours in the land is something you should be extremely proud of. Why has he not made any comment to his supporters and followers on social media? These honours from such a short-lived PM received much criticism but surely Alec is not ashamed of his? The only reference to it on his social media is the picture on the right on Facebook.

No Comment from Conservative Councillors on Wetherby Grumbler

We looked on social media for praise from his supporters who must be extremely proud that their man has attained such high recognition.

There were 2 posts from Wetherby Grumblers (membership 29,000+) and one on Nextdoor. There were nearly 200 comments under them, the vast majority casting doubt on whether it was deserved.

We found only one piece of praise for Alec from Peter & Kate Watson of Harewood, who said he deserved it and congratulated him.



No comment on Alec's KBE
from colleague Cllr
Harrington

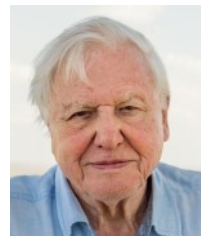
Despite the criticism found on these posts, Alec's friends and colleagues Cllrs Lamb and Harrington made no comment on this award in any way. Interesting, and again a little strange when Cllr Harrington did respond to one comment on a side issue about the Police!

Two more things. The honours list says that they are proposals, leaving the impression they may not be approved by some committee or other. And it is odd to use the title "Sir" before King Charlie has put his sword on the man's shoulder to make it official, isn't it? Alec is using the title already, as seen in the image. Yet in every other way, Alec seems to want to keep quiet about it. There's nothing in the so-called 'Wetherby News' either. We think the reaction from Conservatives to this prestigious honour is strange but as always, if you have a different view, tell us and we'll print it unedited (and anonymously if you want).

Alec has been recognised for achieving in politics what these people have done in their chosen field:

** David Attenborough ** Spike Milligan ** Bob Hope ** Terry Wogan **
Edmund Hillary ** Andy Murray ** Alex Ferguson ** Paul McCartney ** Vera Lynn ** Agatha Christie ** Mick Jagger **

Alec in Extremely Good Company, Sir David Attenborough



Cllr Lamb Too Busy to Read Free Press or Wetherby News

Cllr Alan Lamb, Conservative Leeds City Councillor, says he has 'an average of 150 emails a day alongside correspondence via social media' and therefore 'rarely' has time to read our 'publication or the Wetherby News'. He adds "As I've said before, if the tone and nature change, I will happily reconsider my position of not contributing."

The Wetherby News would literally take a few seconds to read. But seriously, it looks like Cllr Lamb will continue to put nothing in writing when a resident of 30+ years raises reasonable and legitimate issues. The fact the resident is the Editor of a newsletter should be totally irrelevant. I make it clear to him and Cllr Harrington that everything I write is first and foremost as a resident. Their position of wanting only to discuss issues with me and not writing anything down is unreasonable and untenable. We hope they realise this asap.

Review of 2023 - January Issues 35, 36 & 37

- * **M&Co announce closure**
- * **Cllr Victor Hawkins leaves Welcome to Wetherby Ctte**
- * **Gymphobics raises over £600 for MacMillan Cancer**
- * **Only 4 stalls at market despite fair weather, see right**
- * **Reading Roots window smashed**
- * **Wetherby Civic Society, Wetherby in Bloom & Penny Stables tells us about their year**



Town Council Attendance figures: One Cllr managed to attend all meetings. Two Cllrs attended less than half - both later resigned. *We hope to have 2023 figures soon from the Town Clerk.*

Charity fundraiser Claire Wiggins delivered 170 care packages to St Georges Crypt in Leeds.

Alec Shelbrooke, MP received £14,000 from 16 donations, gifts or payments from 6 sources since late 2019

Big Dip 2024? - Otley's New Year swim in the Wharfe got much publicity on local media. It can't happen here in Wetherby said Council and other organisations.

Poor journalism by Leeds Live, see confession, right.



Another reporter caught the wrong bus going to Scarborough instead!

Review of 2023 - February Issues 38 & 39

- * **Report by private company costing £2,000+** told Council they should spend an extra £145K on staff.
- * **Town Hall staff are suffering from stress** due to 'firefighting' but no details. Asked why, no response.
- * **Wetherby on BBC Look North twice** - Afghan refugees at Mercure hotel & kids fitness program on the Ings.
- * **Gave another example of Otley's website being superior to Wetherby's.**
- * **Informed you of responsibilities Town Council has.** It does not justify such a large number of staff, we say.
- * **Independent Shop Owner not happy with Town Council's Coronation plans.** They say mobile vendors take business away from shops and provide an inferior product.
- * **Encouraged residents to become Town Councillor (voluntary) or Leeds City Councillor (£16K+).**
- * **Community Green Group & Ilkley Clean River Group spoke out** against water co's, regulators and government to clean up the Wharfe.

80% Council Tax Rise by Wetherby Town Council: THE FACTS

| | 22/23 | 23/24 | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Otley | | | |
| Personnel (Staff) Budget | £213K | £229K | + 7.5% |
| % of Total Budget | 39% | 37% | - 2% |
| Wetherby | | | |
| Personnel (Staff) Budget | £161K | £305K | + 90% |
| % of Total Budget | 54% | 56% | + 2% |
| Total Budget | £300K | £540K | +80% |

- ⇒ Otley to spend £76,000 less than Wetherby on staff
- ⇒ Otley does not need or want a 'Communications Manager'
- ⇒ Wetherby spends well over half their total budget on staff
- ⇒ Otley have always spent less than 40% of their total budget on staff
- ⇒ You won't find these % or comparison figures in the Council's 'Budget Bulletin' or the 'Wetherby' News
- ⇒ Otley is Lib-Dem Dominated, Wetherby is all-Conservative (a low tax party!?)

TIME TO WAKE UP WETHERBY!
An 80% increase in these hard times?



With 4 new Councillors on the Town Council now, will there be a clearer explanation of the reasons for the inevitable increase in the C. Tax precept this year?



* **Church Leader spoke out on real issues affecting real people, see right.** We asked why local church leaders don't do the same instead of remaining silent when there are similar issues locally, highlighted in the Free Press? No response from them to us.

* **Phill Andrews photo of Goldcrest, left.**



Wetherby Bridge Club

New Complete Beginners' Course

Starting Friday 26th January 2-4pm

Cost £60 for the 10 week course
including tea/coffee & biscuits/cake + notes and quizzes

*If you are interested in joining this class or have any questions,
please contact Pauline Stout – stoutp02@yahoo.com or 01937 845974*

We also offer Improver & Refresher Courses

Pauline is an English Bridge Union qualified bridge teacher.

Yorkshire Evening Post ☆ Thirty-four of the most dangerous criminals



SPOT THE SPILLING MISTAKE

in this email sent by the Yorkshire Evening Post to many 1000s .

OK, it's a simple mistake in a title of an email but to not notice it in the main article says much about the standard of 'professional' journalism nowadays. It is so obvious, how did the Editor miss it?

Wetherby & Boston Spa Men's Forum 2024

| | | |
|--------|----------------|--|
| 10-Jan | Chris Tapster | Russian Forces In Afghanistan 79' -89' |
| 17-Jan | Victor Hawkins | The Great Sale Of Wetherby |
| 24-Jan | Tony Burkitt | Australia - Cairns to Tasmania |
| 31-Jan | Stuart Smith | The Merchant Navy In World War 2 |
| 07-Feb | Jim Lumsden | My Life In Football |
| 14-Feb | Maggie Poppa | Famous Interviewees |
| 21-Feb | Alan Pugh | An Illustrated History Of Leeds |
| 28-Feb | Catherine Warr | A Yorkshire Year |
| 06-Mar | Geoff Queen | On Top Of The World |
| 13-Mar | Tony Guyan | My Life In Media |
| 20-Mar | John Clithero | Story Of The Modern Olympics |
| 27-Mar | John Lyte | Abide With Me Part2 |
| 03-Apr | AGM | |

Meetings take place

9.45am

Wednesdays

St. James' Scout Hut

Church Street

Wetherby



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



The 15 Wetherby Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers. Most are Conservative & raised our Council Tax precept by 80% in a cost-of-living crisis in 23/24, much of it to pay for new staff.

The Town Clerk is Iona Taylor.

The new Assistant Clerk is Rowann Fitzpatrick.

The new Communications Officer is Helena Briden.

These 3 salaries alone cost about £100,000 per year.

There is also a Facilities Manager, Steve Cohen.

Added to this much work is contracted out.

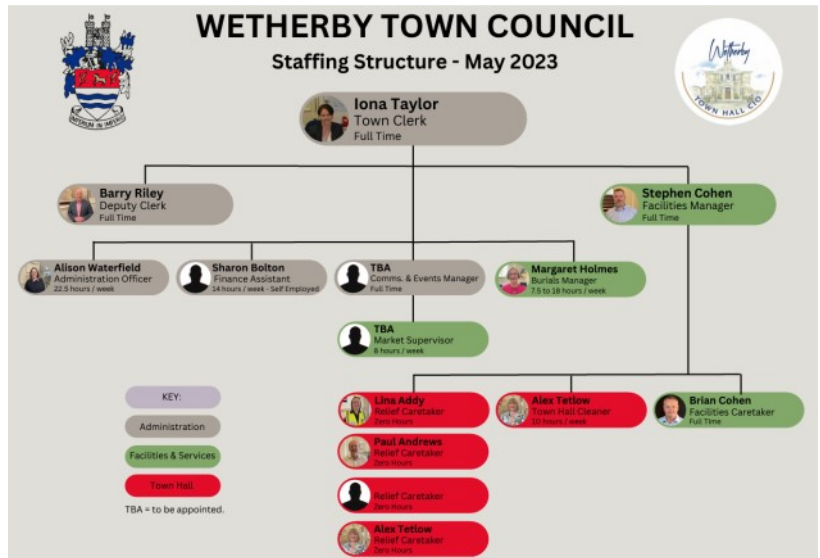
Would anybody like to compare staff costs to those of the village councils, and comparable town councils?

There is still no up-to-date details of Town Hall staff on their still awful website wetherby.co.uk: no images of staff (unlike Otley) and no diagram to show the line management structure.

Thanks to the keen eye of an interested reader we now have at least an idea of the management structure of our burgeoning Town Council. Our reader noticed the diagram on the right in the last Annual Report.

We note:

- ◇ The tiny pictures of staff make them hardly identifiable.
- ◇ This diagram should be on their website and updated when necessary, especially since:
 - * Barry Riley has left his post
 - * There should be an Operations Manager on it



Question for Wetherby Town Council

Why are you promoting a local radio station on your Facebook page? See left.

Social media is already flooded with posts so they must focus and stick to council business and other clearly important community information.

Otherwise, we will expect them to share our posts here at the Wetherby Free Press (another community organisation, and we are not-for-profit). If they don't, they are clearly showing bias. As a publicly-funded organisation, they should show no favouritism and be seen as totally independent of individual businesses.

We will print their response in next issue if we receive one.



Review of 2023 - March Issues 40 & 41

- * Local Filmmaker in BBC2 Documentary, see right
- * Decrepid state of Town Hall & MacMillan Daly LLP windows
- * We do our bit to attract visitors to Wetherby on social media
- * P Stables & A Balcombe present green issues to primary pupils
- * New Leeds Utd manager Javi Gracia won first game
- * Town Cllrs refuse to answer our questions in writing
- * Leeds City Cllr Linda Richards says "contacting by email is a better way of getting an answer". *Not true for Town Cllrs!*
- * We show there are double the number of Facebook posts before an election from Conservatives compared to 3 years ago .
- * Bus driver highlights vehicles blocking station exit. *Still nothing been done.*
- * Employee stole over £64K from Floor Design.
- * No news about Wetherby in 'Wetherby News'. Library stopped buying it. They rarely feature our stories.

ISSUE 40 until Fri 24 Mar '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Not-for-profit Community Newsletter

Local Diver Highlights 'Shocking' State of Wharfe on TV

Local Campaigner Mark Barrow took part in a documentary aired on BBC2 called 'Our Troubled Waters'. Presented by comedian and angler Paul Whitehouse, it shows the pollution allowed to take place in Lake Windermere & Rivers Wharfe & Tame.

Mark says he spent 2 days filming with the celebrity and says it was 'a real honour' and that he is 'genuinely a really nice person'. The program started off with Mark & Paul by the Wharfe at Ilkley near the Water Treatment plant. While Mark prepared for a filming dive, Paul jokingly said that he admired Mark for being 'brave, intrepid and stupid' because of the danger from nasties in the water from salmonella to e-coli.

Later, Mark showed Paul footage of wet wipes, sanitary towels and human waste which he took in Collingham, Wetherby & Boston Spa. The first two the public must take some responsibility but raw sewage in our rivers is 100% Yorkshire Water's responsibility.

Mark gets a 'birds-eye' view of Wharfe at Ilkley on BBC2 - Sun 5 March

Town Council Election - Apply before Friday 12 Jan. Late Info from Council!



As we reported in the last issue, this election was instigated by a group of residents, 'not for any party political reason, but just to ensure that the democratic process is followed.'

The group would like to 'encourage people to stand for election' and wants 'to publicise this event as much as possible'.

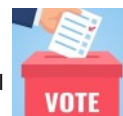
The Spokesperson got back in touch with us to inform us that the Town Council website had nothing on it about this election in December. We checked and confirmed this. We also saw that the Town Council's Facebook feed did not mention it either. Their Twitter / X feed has not been used by them since April 2022.

A month after the application dates were confirmed, the Town Clerk sent an email out and put it on Facebook, just 10 days before the deadline.

Why has it taken so long for the Town Council to inform everybody of this election when we are assured they knew on 5 Dec the application date of 5 - 12 Jan? It should have been encouraging residents to apply for this vacancy since then. We now have a Communications Officer who should make this sort of thing a priority, not a photo competition - local democracy is more important.

The election will take place on 8 Feb 2024 for a Wetherby Town Councillor (West Ward) after Barbara Harpham resigned.

For anyone wishing to stand, nomination papers and further advice can be found on the Electoral Commission website at the following location: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-parish-council-elections-england/nominations/completing-your-nomination-papers>



Completed nominations need to be hand-delivered to the Returning Officer at Leeds Civic Hall between 10 – 4 from Fri 5 to Fri 12 January 2024 (not Sat or Sun).

Proposals to Reduce Library/Hub Hours

Leeds City Council says that it, like many Local Authorities, is probably in its most challenging financial position since 2011, caused by;

- Reductions in funding from central government of over 30% of their budget in the last ten years.
- Increased costs due to the energy crisis.
- Rising cost of living, creating more demands on services.
- Increased demand for social care rising by £46m over the past 12 yrs

They say "In addition to our financial challenge this year, we already know we will need to save £58m next year, alongside £7m of already agreed savings; £60m the year after; and £46m the year after that. To date, we have had to find savings of £795m since 2010/11".

Their proposals are to reduce the Opening Hours of Community Hubs / Libraries, but they give no detail of what the cuts may actually be. They say the changes would not undermine their statutory duty.

A consultation is taking place now. It's a questionnaire and should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Pick it up at the library and hand it back before **Mon 12 Feb** or complete online at <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/e3ndlX>



Current Opening Hours

Wetherby library is an invaluable community asset. Our Town Council have shown little interest in it. There is no regular agenda item on it and they have never discussed the cuts over recent years; opening hours and newspapers to a grand total of NONE now.

Meanwhile Otley has a modern, spacious library with better facilities and was open on Sundays, yes Sundays, not so long ago. We will compare and contrast with ours in a future issue.

Tree Falls in Wilderness on Xmas Eve



Martin & Elaine took this photo of the tree that came down on Christmas Eve, blocking the entrance to the car park. They were very grateful it did not fall the other way - onto the house they've recently moved into!

"We have just spent 3 weeks revamping the house so the damage it would have done does not bear thinking about" said Martin, adding "We are enjoying living in this lovely town".

Foodbank Drop-in Times 2024

Barleyfields Community Centre, Wetherby:
Tuesdays 10am - 11:30am
Fridays 10am - 11:30am
Saturdays 10am - 11:30am

The Barn, Tadcaster:
Mondays 2pm - 3:30pm

Can't make it to a drop-in session?
Ring the helpline on 08082 082138 or ring us direct on 07840 455725.
We can deliver if needed.

Money Buddies benefits/bills/debt advisor available on Fridays at Wetherby & Mondays at Tadcaster

January 2024 Foodbank Wish List

- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Bars of soap
- Loo roll
- Instant porridge
- Ready Brek
- Porridge oats
- Coffee - small jars please!
- Long-life fruit juice
- Squash/cordials - small sizes please!
- Savoury spreads
- Sweet spreads, jams etc
- Puddings
- Custard - tinned or cartons
- Tinned fruit - all types
- Cooking oils - small bottles please!

Thank you!

Free Press & Free Speech continues in Wetherby for another year

Yes, we are still here. It is worth emphasising because there are many that do not want our organ of free speech in the town, despite us giving EVERYBODY the chance to air their views. As long as it's not defamatory, we will print it. Despite the opposition and insults that has come our way, we keep on going because of the nice things people say and their donations.

We have a large mailing list and it's growing all the time. Many are out of area and find the machinations of a conservative town intriguing.



We continue to help many charities, community groups and small businesses. Since the so-called Wetherby News now only prints one or zero news items about the area per issue, local organisations have little chance of getting their message across in the 'professional' press. In the first 6 months of 2023 we promoted at no charge:

* Wetherby Civic Society * Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group * Wetherby Foodbank * Bipolar UK * Bee Crafty Markets * DalesBus * Riverside Brass Band

Concerts * Guide Dogs * a local Author * KD Events * Drivers Day * Artists Around Wetherby * Beer Festival

In 2023 we produced 21 issues and 200 pages of articles, ads and great images. We also enjoyed

- keeping you up-to-date with all the bus issues in our town
- Trying to make you smile with jokes and cartoons
- Providing interesting information about our wildlife



We have been waiting for our detractors to produce an alternative to the Free Press - their own community newsletter. Nothing yet.

Anybody can do it, you know. You don't need a license, qualifications or permission from the police.

Perhaps it's because our critics simply do not have the computer skills, writing skills, camera skills, sense of humour, intelligence, temperament, thick-skin and common sense necessary to produce an interesting newsletter.



We have called the worst group of our critics the "Wetherby Mafia". They try to make life as difficult as possible for us by calling up those who engage with us to

persuade them not to. We do not know exactly what the Mafia say to persuade people but it must be a strong statement against us. Perhaps they threaten or bribe to stop people engaging with us. No matter what they do, the intended effect is clear. This is a very serious matter indeed. A new advertiser stopped dealing with us because of this despicable behaviour and this has been going on since we began in 2021.

Why don't the Mafia tell us directly what their problem is instead of taking such extreme action? Perhaps debate like mature adults?

It is inevitable that we will find out who the Wetherby Mafia is/are. One day they will contact someone who knows it's inexcusable behaviour and call it out. Or one of their associates will come forward, probably anonymously.

It is sad to think these people live or work amongst us, and have so much hatred for us. We feel sorry for them.

And we know the truth will always come out in the end.



The match before Christmas put Leeds fans in a great mood for the festive period - a 4 goal thrashing of second place Ipswich at Elland Road.

But the second match live on Sky TV saw United lose 2 - 1 at Preston on Boxing Day. And the third and final match live on Sky also saw them lose by just one goal again in a poor game at West Brom, this time 1 - 0. They played in their pink away strip, see right.

Two disappointing defeats that left them in fourth place, 9 points behind automatic promotion. A home match against another West Midlands team followed on News Years Day. It was against a struggling Birmingham City managed by Wayne Rooney.



Awful away kit already discounted

A 3 - 0 win for United was the final straw for Birmingham and within days Rooney was dismissed. He had won only 2 games in 15. In this match Birmingham had their chances but didn't take them.



SACKED: Wayne Rooney's last game in charge of Birmingham City was at Elland Road.

Patrick Bamford made his first start for Leeds this season, and what a start it was. His fine header from a perfect James cross gave Leeds the advantage after half an hour. James himself scored the second just before half time, leaving the Whites in a great position.

With chances missed by Brum and one by Bamford hitting the post, Summerville made a City comeback highly unlikely after a very well-worked goal in the 66th minute. Leeds are now in 4th place in the Championship, 6 points above fifth place and 7 points behind an automatic promotion place.

FIXTURES

Peterborough v **Utd** on Sun 7 Jan at 14.00 FA Cup

Cardiff City v **Utd** on Sat 13 Jan at 15.00

Utd v Preston on Sun 21 Jan at 12.00 **sky sports**



Manager Daniel Farke joined Leeds in July '23. The team have won just over half of their matches under the German.

Your Community Newsletter Editor: Paul Kirby



Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM
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

Please donate online at

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

to cover printing costs

Thank You

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

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

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

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

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

Sponsorship on front page - £25

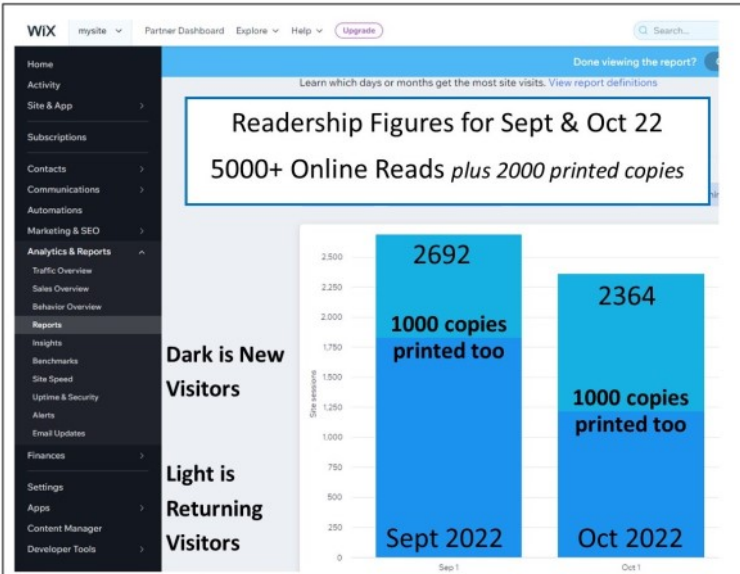
**We can design your ad FOR FREE
Just send us the details & images**



Free Press
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



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

In 2023 we Supported

25

Local Organisations & Charities

Send us your

to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2024