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# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

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



Image courtesy of Amanda Harper, BBC Look North

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, Rachael Toner, 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 route 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



will be served tomorrow (Weds), with all the usual stops in use. Thanks for bearing with us.” There was nothing in the ‘News’ part of their website.

The *Wetherby News* had no further information on the ‘incident’ despite the Chief Executive of Transdev, Alex Hornby, writing a regular column for their sister paper *The Harrogate Advertiser*. His column two days later was entitled “Revel in what we have on our doorstep in Harrogate” and made no mention of the accident. Many were surprised the accident did not merit being on the front page of the *Wetherby News* that week. It featured on BBC Look North news that evening.

A reliable source on social media stated that the driver was shaken up but is fine. He did not have a heart attack.

The *Wetherby Free Press* asked Alex Hornby for details and comment but he provided neither. It is clear from the CCTV footage that the bus did not come to a natural stop when it hit the oncoming blue car. It continued on and the investigation will no doubt discover all the factors surrounding why that was. Driver error or mechanical failure seem the most likely.

The Paper Shop had substantial damage and manager Loretta Lou Sutton says they hope to be open again as soon as possible. She thanks everyone for their support and will post updates on social media. “I miss seeing all our lovely customers”, she added. Wetherby Whaler Director, Caroline Murphy said, “We have had lots of messages of concern regarding this incident. Thankfully no one was hurt, and all of our staff are fine albeit a little shaken by the incident. If it had been later in the week then things could have been a lot worse”.

**Editor’s Comment:** *Harrogate Bus Company is one of the best in the country for customer service, innovation and marketing literature. I have worked with Alex Hornby on the ‘Most Scenic Bus Route in Britain’ survey and I admire his achievements. But I find it bizarre that his company made no acknowledgement of how upsetting it must have been for witnesses and all those involved. There were no details of whether there were any passengers were on board—no information at all. And no reassurance provided to the people of Wetherby that bus travel is safe and these occurrences are very rare. Of course, we don’t expect them to admit liability or pre-empt an investigation but pretending it didn’t happen with a news blackout is not on in our opinion.*

What do you think? Email us and the bus company at [happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk](mailto:happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk). Or Tweet @WbyFreePress @HarrogateBus

## TRANSPORT NEWS

### Fuel prices\* for Unleaded:



Morrisons £1.34 Shell £1.39

\* Correct on Thurs before publishing date. To nearest penny Sainsburys, Morrisons & Asda in Harrogate is usually cheaper. As is Seacroft Tesco & Killingbeck Asda Website & App [PetrolPrices.com](http://PetrolPrices.com) can sometimes be useful

### Bus Fares Return:

*Cheaper if you buy many or with app*

To Leeds Rte X98/99 - ‘FirstDay’ ticket (valid in Leeds on all First buses) £4.70

Anywhere in West Yorkshire - ‘Metro DaySaver’ ticket £6.70 (valid on all buses)

To Harrogate - Connexions Rte X70 £4  
- Harrogate Bus Co Rte 7 £4.40

Buses also run to York, Otley & Knaresborough. And Buckden on Sundays!



Also temp. home to Leeds Council’s Community Hub (One Stop Shop)

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## Wetherby in the Media

THE YORKSHIRE VET



8pm

Tuesdays for 12 weeks



Documentary series following vets Peter Wright & Julian Norton (pic) from James Herriot's former practice. It shows when they moved into new premises on the Sandbeck estate. In first episode on 7 Sept Julian dealt with unwell peahens and delivered a litter of 14!! pups. Multiple aerial views of the town and river show Wetherby at its best.

## welcomes new Litigation Solicitor

Yorkshire law firm Ware & Kay Solicitors (with offices in Wetherby) is delighted to announce the appointment of Julie Bradwell, an experienced Litigation Solicitor to its growing Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department.

Her appointment is a further addition to the firm's expertise in this sector. Julie brings with her a wealth of experience in all aspects of litigation and dispute resolution. She is widely recognised for her experience in handling complex cases particularly for clients who are contesting Wills and bringing inheritance claims. Julie will also provide a range of advice to clients who are disputing the termination of commercial and residential leases, property contract disputes, boundary and property nuisance disputes and professional negligence.

Originally from Newcastle, Julie arrives with over 31 years' experience in litigation and dispute resolution. She graduated from the University of Leeds and qualified as a Solicitor in 1990, beginning her career in London. With a breadth of experience across the full litigation spectrum Julie has represented a number of high profile clients having handled some complex civil litigation cases and is extremely well-regarded.

Julie said "I am delighted to be joining Ware & Kay at this time. Ware & Kay has an enviable reputation as one of the leading law firms in Yorkshire and has a strong client base. I am really looking forward to helping grow the department and being a key part of the team".



Julie Bradwell



### The 43<sup>rd</sup> Wetherby Arts Festival



took place last weekend a month earlier than usual. There was more chance to catch better weather, as it was held mostly outdoors. But that didn't stop around

events around St James' church and keeping the tradition alive!

Len Horridge explained "We started on Friday 3 Sept with Opera with Chips (thank you Wetherby Whaler and our intrepid singers!) and on Saturday we had contemporary dancing for children with Tales of the Great Wood. In the evening there was the LSO Oboe and the Midnight Quintet with a varied programme of music ranging from Tchaikovsky to Madonna! On Sunday there was a free music outdoor "festival" featuring three acts who entertained a healthy crowd in the sunshine before the evening's finale - The Unrecorded Case of Holmes & Watson. We got loads of positive feedback all weekend but at this show one audience member said it was "so funny... they kept the audience creased up in laughter throughout the evening"."

The festival is organised by volunteers who did an amazing job in the current environment to get anything on at all this year. Planning started in February when they had no idea where they would be and what they could do! The festival organisers would like to send a massive *THANK YOU* to them, to the plucky performers and to the people of Wetherby (and beyond) who supported them in these tricky times.

Next year they say they will be back with a longer programme of events. Check the website [wetherbyfestival.co.uk](http://wetherbyfestival.co.uk) to keep up to date. Len concludes "And please keep supporting your only local Arts Festival, soon to be in its 44<sup>th</sup> season!"



### Social Media Joke of the Week

*My mate chased off a scarecrow from his garden the other day. "Waste of time trying to catch him" he said, "I was clutching at straws"*



SURVIVE 250 MPH CRASH

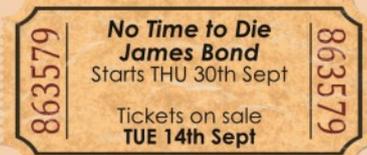
SHIRT GETS PULLED

## What's On

### Wetherby Film Theatre Fri 10th - Thu 16th September

**Respect** (Biography/Drama/Musical/12A)  
Remarkable true story of Aretha Franklin's career  
FRI 19:30 | SAT 19:30 | SUN 16:00 | MON 16:00 + 19:30  
TUE 16:00 | WED 16 + 19:30 | THU 16:00

**Off the Rails** (Comedy-Drama/15)  
Now in their 50s, four friends re-create an inter-rail journey across Europe  
FRI 16:30 | SAT 16:30 | SUN 19:30 | MON 13:00 | THU 19:30



More films and information at [wetherbyfilmtheatre.com](http://wetherbyfilmtheatre.com)

### Engine Shed

**The Perfect Show** - A fantastic Robbie Williams tribute and an authentic Peter Kay performed by Simon Mark.  
FRI 17th September - Doors at 19:00

More information at [engineshedwetherby.co.uk](http://engineshedwetherby.co.uk)

### Wetherby Markets and Fairs

**Market Place**  
Weekly Market: Every Thursday  
Artisan Market: SUN 12th Sept, 10:00 - 15:00

**Racecourse**  
Car Boot Sales: Every SUN + TUE 6:00 - 13:00,  
Weather dependent

### Other Events

**Church Community Fete**  
St. James: SAT 11th Sept, 10:00 - 14:00

**Baby Band**  
Music Classes for Babies, Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers  
Town Hall: WED 15th Sept, 9:30 - 10:15

All information is subject to change.

## About Us

**Thank you** for your support and for reading our first edition this far! Hope you like it. We are a small team who want to keep Wetherby residents up-to-date with what's going on and promote community spirit and local businesses. We hope to get bigger and better with 8 pages as soon as it's possible. We would love to include surrounding villages, especially Boston Spa, in the near future.

**FAIR & INDEPENDENT** - We are apolitical and aim to make representatives of all parties, and publicly-paid officials, accountable for what they do and say. Our policy is to let all those we write about have a right to reply. Waffle will not be published though. Apologies and corrections will be made when facts are wrong.

**YOUR STORIES / NEWS** - One thing we know is that if this newsletter is not interesting or relevant, people will not read it. So if you have a story, please contact us. All information will be kept in total confidence.

**CAN'T ACCESS A COPY? NEED BULK COPIES?**- If you cannot get a copy due to a disability then Paul will ride round on his bike and deliver it personally! Wetherby only, I'm afraid. Bulk deliveries for care homes and similar can be made too.

**A Few of the Comments from  
Wetherby Grumbler Facebook Group & Nextdoor**

"Sounds super" - JK      "Brilliant idea" - PH & ST  
"Promising Initiative" - DS      "Fantastic News" - JL & KK  
Five Wetherby Councillors sent best wishes

*Thank you!*

**GET INVOLVED** - If you want to be involved in any way, please get in touch. The Free Press will improve in content and size as more helpers and advertisers come on board.

**Donations** are also vital so please give what you can in the collection boxes next to most printed copy displays.



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Utd v Liverpool Sun 12 Sep 16.30 

Newcastle v Utd Fri 17 Sep 20.00 

Sts v Rhinos Fri 10 Sep 19.45 

Rhinos v Hull KR Fri 17 Sep 19.45

**Leeds United** are looking for their first Premier League win of the season. Not an easy game for Marcelo Bielsa's team.

After last weeks thrilling climax at Newcastle with **Leeds Rhinos** scoring the golden point against Hull FC in extra time, the team is still in contention for a Super League play off place.

*Pubs - promote the matches you show here*

In League 2 **Harrogate Town FC** are top of the league after half a dozen games. Congrats to them. Playing at home v Newport County - Fri 10 Sep 19.45

**York City FC** lie mid-table in the National Lge North. Playing at home v Hereford - Sat 11 Sep 15.00

**Wetherby Races**



Wed 13 Oct - first race at 13.55

**Motorcycle Accident near Bramham** A 57-year-old man, Robert Baron, who died on Sunday 5 Sept in a tragic motorcycle accident was from Richmond, N Yorks. It happened at about 11.30am on the straight stretch of road parallel to the A1(M), West Woods Road, near Bramham. He was taking part in a charity ride in support of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, the service which took him to hospital. Another motorcyclist suffered serious injuries.

**Hay Trailer Overtakes** Noone was hurt in this incident on the



Racecourse roundabout. The incident occurred on Wed 8 Sept at about 4.30pm. Police closed the roads while the farm workers acted quickly and efficiently to remove the obstacle, according to one bystander. Also on Wednesday late afternoon a car ended up in a hedge on Spofforth Hill.



*Editor with the Great Man himself in local cafe*