



## ***They Died for Our Freedom (of Speech)***

ISSUE 70  
until 29 Nov

**Full Issue at** [www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)  

**& Full Copy at Library, Pheonix Café ....**  **Contents overleaf** 

Promo copies at *Morrisons, Pubs, Cafés, Dentists, Care Homes, Churches, Hairdressers, Shops ...*

### ***After Years Finally Something is Done! But...***



It has taken years for our Councillors just to get Leeds Highways to repaint the double-yellow lines near the bus station exit. Why has it taken so long for all those in authority to take this first of many simple measures to resolve the problem of vehicles blocking the bus station exit?

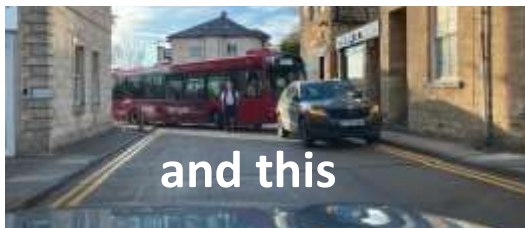
**Many vehicles will still not be deterred from parking there.**

This was proven just days after the repainting. The Editor saw the X98 just squeeze past a legally parked car with a blue badge. **Not long after that incident, the inevitable happened - a blockage of 20 minutes on 1 Nov.** We said it would happen again. Our reader sent us the image and said 'it really is time for double RED lines and a camera.' He sees it happening all the time, as he lives close by. The word he used to describe the situation was 'unbelievable'.

**We agree. There needs to be more of a visual deterrent** ie signs on the street and paint on the road clearly stating it is a bus station exit. No doubt it will be a couple of years before we see those. Meanwhile hundreds more bus passengers will be



The car above is legally parked as it has a blue badge. A traffic warden was present and could do nothing.



greatly inconvenienced by drivers, with and without disabled badges.

**Our two Conservative Leeds City Councillors have the time to respond to tweets on other issues but ignore our emails about this matter.** Cllr Penny Stables is the only Councillor to contact us about this issue. She tells us: "There are plans to make the double yellow lines on Castle Gate a no stopping area, with cross lines on them. This is waiting for the next TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for Wetherby to come together and be passed. This will happen but not quickly."

**This issue has yet to be mentioned in the so-called 'Wetherby News' or any other local paper. Only WFP reflects the frustration of residents on this matter.**



**The Free Press continues its campaign to brighten up the town with tasteful and imaginative street art.** Dull surfaces could be used to make us all smile when we pass. It just needs a little imagination. In past issues we've featured inspiring images of telecom boxes showing what can be achieved. On pages 6 & 8 we show what can be done on walls.

**We also feature a fantastic art initiative in Boston Spa & villages for primary school children.** Spokesperson for the parents, Jennifer Kitson, says:

"The Children's Community Art Competition is more than just an art contest - it's a chance for the community to come together, celebrate local talent and nurture children's appreciation for nature." See page 10.



*Naples expresses itself - Wetherby should too*



*Jennie Kitson celebrating local talent*

**100s of Articles Written in 3 Years and Not One Retracted - Proof We State Facts & Reasonable Opinion**  
Plse Send your News & Views to: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me) Twitter / X: [WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

**Don't Miss Out - Join Our Ever-increasing Mailing List by emailing:** [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

**No Bus Info in Kirk D'ton 'Hub'** Page 3

**Winter Trips to Dales - Every Sunday** Page 4

**Pub Quiz & Good Beer Guide Entries** Page 5

**Another Successful Arts Festival** Page 6

**No Answers / Comments from Town Cllrs** Pages 7 & 8

**England Manager is German!** Page 12

## You're having a larf!

chocolate bars up. She gets her snickers in a twix.

\* My conker business was very efficient - I ran it on a shoe-string (topical Autumn joke)

\* My friend wanted to move into a new house instead of a bungalow. But that's another storey.

\* My wife hates it when I mix all the



\* My wife asked me "What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?". I replied "I don't know and



I don't care"

\* How much does it cost to build a roof & chimney?

Nothing - it's on the house.

\* The man who invented throat lozenges died last week. There was no coffin at the funeral.

## UPDATE WETHERSPOONS 158 FOR 2 AGAINST

The consultation period has been extended so make your support or otherwise known by **Fri 15 Nov.** Visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/) and search for Application 24/02368/LI. In June 2024 Wetherby Town Council narrowly voted in support of the application by 3 votes to 2. *More about 'Spoons on page 5*

## Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 12 Nov at 7pm, Town Hall  
Agenda at [www.wetherby.co.uk](http://www.wetherby.co.uk)



**Lucky Ducky** **£1.25 per bag** **Duck Food**



## Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available  
**Call Kerry on 07876 525 589**

As well as the *Wetherby Free Press* page on **facebook** there's the *Wetherby Deserves Better* page too.

Both are independently run from the newsletter.

Follow & Don't Get



## The 'Community Hub' that Doesn't Want Important Community Information!

The last edition of WFP highlighted the fact that somebody in Kirk Deighton does not want vital community information in the 'Community Hub'. They had removed the bus timetables for the only bus route through the village; a route that will always be under threat because it is so rural. It should be promoted at every opportunity. So the Editor thought he was doing the village a favour by



leaving them in the phone box. He was wrong in that belief.

In the article we wondered if the person who removed the leaflets was part of *KD Events*, who set up the phone box, or somebody else with a grudge against buses or the Editor. *KD Events* were disappointed that we did not give them more time to respond and were not pleased with the article. Strangely, their response to our email had no name at the bottom, unlike others sent to us.

For context, we promoted *KD Event's* calendar success with a half-page article in the same *WFP* edition on page 11. In their email we received no thanks for that, or for our efforts to encourage bus travel in their village. We also promoted the 'Hub' itself in July's Issue 64 on Page 9 and mentioned leaving the 8 bus timetable in there.

*KD Events* gave us no clear answer as to whether it was them who removed the leaflets so the Editor asked them again. They replied: "The Kirk Deighton community hub is a space for all to enjoy, small but perfectly formed. Sadly due to the tiny space we simply don't have room for lots of leaflets. If we allowed one set - we'd have to allow them all. We think it looks great full of books for children and adults. Instead, we invite people to post info leaflets on the big notice board in the centre of village, visible for everyone to see."

So *KD Events* make no exception for bus timetable leaflets. Bus leaflets are invaluable to many, as not everybody has smartphones and computers. Saving the planet and helping those without cars is clearly not one of Kirk Deighton's priorities. The big notice board cannot be opened by Joe Public so leaving leaflets in it would be pointless.

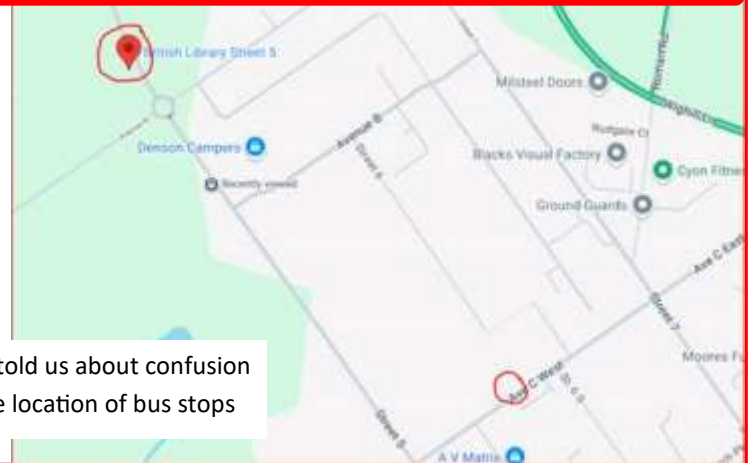
We find their position quite bizarre but nothing surprises us any more. It is particularly disappointing as *KD Events* were not going to inform the Editor that he was wasting his time leaving leaflets there. Adding to the weirdness of it all, we have Cllr Alan Lamb who owns the Bay Horse pub where the phone box is situated and has a special interest in buses, as he sits on the Metro / WYCA board in his role as a Leeds City Councillor. Surely he can see the benefit of promoting bus travel in a small village with no shops or doctors or dentist? Especially when at least two timetable cases at bus stops in the village are empty.

It's Kirk Deighton's bus passengers and potential passengers that lose out because of *KD Event's* actions. If Guy Roberts, Chair of *KD Events*, changes his mind, he can contact the Editor or collect the timetable leaflets himself from Wetherby Library.



Not a 'Community Hub' in any sense of the word. It is simply a phone box with books in it.

## Clarification of where the 7 stops in Thorp Arch Trading Estate



Readers have told us about confusion regarding the location of bus stops

## Bus Shelters in Wetherby

Leeds City Councillor Penny Stables tells us:

"I am working with WYCA, WTC and the LCC Access Officer to try to get more bus shelters in Wetherby. We are initially pitching for shelters on Walton Road by Heuthwaite Avenue, where there is space and many elderly residents, plus Deighton Road near the Care Homes, again where elderly, vulnerable people are left waiting in the rain."



Ainsty Road surely deserves a bus shelter. None on Ainsty Road or Aire Road



Sandbeck Estate: Shelter installed in 2023 nobody asked for and is rarely used

# TRANSPORT NEWS

## Other Bus Companies Inform Passengers of Cancellations - Not Harrogate Bus Company



The image shows Stagecoach informing their passengers on X / Twitter of a cancellation. Many other bus co's do too. So why won't Harrogate Bus Company, particularly when their service is so unreliable at the moment? They rely entirely on their Transdev Go app which shows the bus in real time on a map.

The problem is that not all their buses have these trackers so if your bus is not on the map you have to turn up and hope. This is not good enough from a company that prides itself on customer service. They should use every means possible to inform passengers of major delays and cancellations.

## Alec Shelbooke - Shadow Transport Minister

Alec Shelbooke is our Conservative MP for Wetherby & Easingwold. He was made Shadow Transport Minister in July 2024. None of the 3 main towns in his new constituency has a railway station. Boroughbridge, Wetherby & Easingwold are all reliant on buses. In the July '24 general election he did not mention buses once in campaign literature.

Since Alec's appointment, these are his social media posts about buses

8 July - 7 Nov: **1 Tweet / Facebook Post**

On 30 August he asked the Transport Minister "What assessment has she made of the potential impact of parked cars outside bus stations on levels of delays on regional bus networks?"

We have informed Alec about the many bus issues we face in Wetherby and area. He has yet to respond to us about any bus issue.

**It is clear to us and surely most right-thinking people that Alec has very little interest in buses. But if you think differently, please send us the evidence and we'll publish it.**

What does Alec think about the maximum single fare increase from £2 to £3?



**50% increase**

We don't know.

He has not tweeted or posted anything on his Facebook page about it.

## DalesBus Continues into the Winter - Direct to Upper Wharfedale

Yes, we are fortunate enough to have a year-round Sunday service direct to the Yorkshire Dales. Connections to Malham are available too, at Ilkley.

These times are valid until 13 April 2025.

**\* Free for The Elderly \***

ENCTS passes for the elderly and disabled are valid on all the buses shown in this leaflet.

Under 19's travel for just £1 per single journey (proof of age required by teenagers).

The **£2 single fare** is available until 31 Dec.

Day Rover tickets can be bought for **£10 adult and £18 family** and help to keep the service running.



### DalesBus 874: Wetherby - Leeds - Ilkley - Bolton Abbey - Grassington - Buckden

Wetherby Bus Station	0835	-	Buckden National Park Car Park	1220	1620
Collingham Brookside	0839	-	Buckden Buck Inn	1222	1622
Scarcroft opp. The Inn	0845	-	Kettlewell Blue Bell Inn	1232	1632
Oakwood Clock	0857	-	Kilnsey opp. Tennants Arms	1242	1642
Harehills Fforde Grene Junction	0900	-	Threshfield Shop	1248	1648
Leeds City Bus Station	0915	-	Grassington National Park Centre arr.	1255	1655
Leeds Boar Lane	0919	-	Grassington National Park Centre dep.	1300c	1700c
Headingley opp. Shopping Centre	0930	-	Threshfield opp. School	1302	1702
Adel Dastan Restaurant	0937	-	Burnsall Red Lion	1311	1711
Bramhope Breary Lane	0943	-	Strid Wood	1320	1720
Otley Bus Station	0955	-	Bolton Abbey opp. Village Green	1325	1725
Burley Station Road	1003	-	Addingham The Fleece	1333	1733
Ilkley Bus Station arr.	1015	-	Ilkley Bus Station arr.	1345	1745
Ilkley Bus Station dep.	1020c	1410	Ilkley Bus Station dep.	-	1750c
Addingham opp. The Fleece	1028	1418	Burley Station Road	-	R
Bolton Abbey Village Green	1036	1426	Otley Bus Station	-	1808
Strid Wood	1041	1431	Bramhope Breary Lane	-	1815
Burnsall Village Green	1050	1440	Adel Holt Lane	-	1820
Threshfield Shop	1100	1450	Headingley Shopping Centre	-	1830
Grassington National Park Centre arr.	1105	1455	Leeds Boar Lane	-	1840
Grassington National Park Centre dep.	1110	1500c	Leeds York Street	-	1845
Threshfield opp. School	1112	1502	Harehills Fforde Grene Junction	-	1853
Kilnsey Tennants Arms	1118	1508	Oakwood Clock	-	1855
Kettlewell Shelter	1128	1518	Scarcroft The Inn	-	1905
Buckden opp. Buck Inn	1138	1528	Collingham Main Street	-	1910
Buckden National Park Car Park	1140	1530	Wetherby Bus Station	-	1915

c = this journey will wait up to 10 minutes after scheduled departure time in the event of a delay to a connecting service.

R = calls on request to set down passengers only.

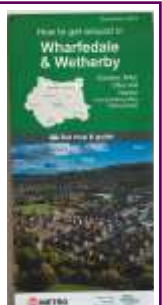
[www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)  
TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES

## Only £2 single to Leeds, Harrogate, Otley, Garforth & York

Reminder of Bus Facts for our Councillors & MP, Alec Shelbooke (Shadow Transport Minister)

- ◇ Transdev's route 7 to Harrogate & Leeds via B Spa was reduced to hourly from half-hourly in Nov '22
- ◇ The late night route 7 service from Harrogate at 11.30pm was cut in Nov '22. The last bus is now 10.20pm
- ◇ There is NO Saturday service to York (Connexion's route 412) or Otley (Connexion's route 923) since May 22
- ◇ WYCA/Metro made a big mess of installing new bus stop flags in 2021. Half the stops are still the old type
- ◇ WYCA/Metro have stopped printing their 7 invaluable network maps. Not even displayed at W'by Bus Sta

Metro's Invaluable Maps Not Printed or Displayed. Online only.



## Max Bus Fare rises to £3 from £2



From 1 Jan 2025 the maximum single bus fare will rise to £3. Most in the bus industry expected a reasonable 50p increase to £2.50 but the Labour government thought otherwise.

We asked the only Labour Councillor on Wetherby Town Council, Cllr Alex Riddell, for his view on this and how he thinks this will affect local services. He has not responded.

The only party to contact us about this important issue is the Yorkshire Party.



“ Co-leader Bob Buxton said: “Why do Londoners get bus fares for £1.75? London has higher earnings, excellent underground railways and yet they get the cheapest deal on buses too. Even Greater Manchester gets to keep the £2 cap, but Yorkshire and elsewhere now have to pay £3 – that’s an extra £500 a year to get to work. Funding has to be fair as well as locally controlled. Treasury figures for 2023 show that per person spending was £2,600 lower in Yorkshire than in London and Scotland – that’s a shortfall of £14 billion a year because we don’t have a proper devolution settlement.” ”

## Promoting Our Buses on Social Media



Our engaging, effective posts on local Facebook groups & Nextdoor get 1000s of views

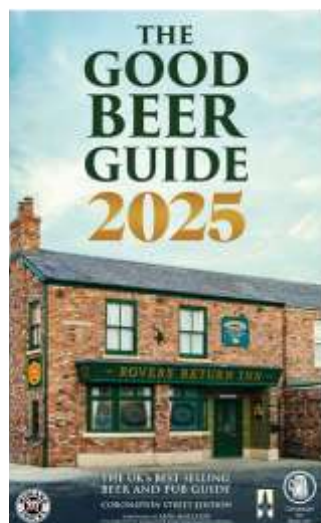
## Pub News



Skipton - A very busy bar right next to a Wetherspoons. In Otley there’s a pub opposite the Spoons surviving quite nicely. There’s no evidence that a new ‘Spoons harms other good quality pubs in the area; the opposite seems to be true.



What is wrong with this ‘Spoons Drink List? (seen in Keighley, Oct 24). Answer in next Issue.



There is one Wetherby drinking place in the latest *Good Beer Guide (GBG)*. There were none in the past 2 years so this is progress. It is Bosun’s Brewery on the Sandbeck Estate.

The *Guide* is published by Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) and is the UK’s best-selling beer and pub guide, costing £16.99 at Waterstones.

Local branch members choose the pubs following regular visits to check on the quality of the real ales on offer. They also take into account customer service, décor and overall atmosphere.

Establishments in nearby towns in the book are.

**Knaresborough - 4 Pubs (3 last year)**

They are *Blind Jacks, Cross Keys, Half Moon & Six Poor Folk*

**Otley - 5 Pubs (3 last year)**

They are *Black Horse, Junction Inn, Old Cock, Curious Hop Beer Café and Horse & Farrier*



Wetherspoons in Harrogate, one of the pubs in GBG 2025

JD Wetherspoon has 251 pubs in this year’s *GBG*, which is 15 more than the last one.

It makes them opening here in Wetherby even more important. It will attract more people to the town.

# Another Festival Finishes - Another Great Success



Literary Lunch - Our guest speakers, sponsors Harlow and our Chair

WETHERBY FESTIVAL 2024 ...  
WOW!!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's Festival, including all of our sponsors (who ensure we can do this every year). It went without a glitch (apart from projector bulb problems at the Liquid Eden event, initially!) and sales numbers were significantly up from last year (and last year was very good!) and feedback has been excellent.

We went from 3 to 11 October and whilst



we would like to highlight our, erm, highlights it really was ALL very good and everything well attended. Weetwood Mac, drew the biggest crowd but The Regalettes wowed the audience, Reno Sparks sold out (as did the Literary Lunch and Call My Wine Bluff), Wetherby Cinema hosted 3 brilliant films, the Leeds Symphony Orchestra was outstanding and... well, we could go on.

The brand new poetry competition, judged by Ian McMillan, was a resounding success with over 200 entries and a lovely afternoon of performances and prize giving at Kemps Bookstore.

So, what about next year? Oh, we have some plans. Keep in touch, join us on Facebook and Instagram, become a member or volunteer to help, it's fun!

*Thanks for your support... see you next year!!*

## Calling Artists in Wetherby - Showcase Your Talent & Let's Brighten the Town Up

We are trying to cheer everyone up a little by making something dull more interesting.

Other communities here and abroad show great imagination and creativity in making their environment a nicer place.

We hope this inspires our artists to make us all smile and admire their artistic efforts. It goes without saying you need permission from the owner.

Last issue it was shop fronts with the 'Wow' factor. This time it's walls.



Ideal for a 'Welcome to Wetherby' Mural



### Walls in Wetherby



Boston Spa



Chester



More examples on page 8

# Wetherby Town Council - Continuing to Not Answer Simple Questions



Image we had to put together - New Website Will Not State Political Allegiance. Why?

We thank the 15 Wetherby Town Councillors for being unpaid volunteers. Unlike most volunteers they have power and are responsible for spending over **£500,000** of our money. Most are Conservative and raised our Council Tax precept by 80% in a cost-of-living crisis in 23/24, much of it to pay for new staff.

**They claim to be non-political.** This is nonsense shown by the Conservatives spending a great deal of time, money and effort to get their person (Cllr Smith) elected in Feb 24.

**In July 2024 Councillors agreed to hide one specific fact about themselves - their political allegiance on the website.** They are denying information to the public that many would base their vote on. What possible reason have they got for keeping this basic, vital piece of information from us?

All but one of the 9 Council reps on other organisations are Conservative.

Every one of the 12 Council Meeting Chairs are Conservative.

The Mayor & Deputy Mayor are Conservative.

The Town Clerk is Iona Taylor. She is manager to an Assistant Clerk (downgraded from an experienced Deputy Clerk in 2023), an Admin Officer (Dawn Murrell appointed in Oct 24), a Communications & Events Officer (Helena Briden since Nov 2023), a Finance Assistant, a Burials Officer, a Facilities Officer (downgraded from an experienced Facilities Manager, started

in June 24) and a Facilities Caretaker.

**There are 8 members of staff, more than most Town Councils. Employment costs are over £150,000 a year.** Work is also contracted out.

There are no images of Town Hall staff on their website [wetherby.co.uk](http://wetherby.co.uk), unlike Otley Town Council's, and no easy-to-find diagram showing the line management structure. We find it strange that there are no official photos of the Town Clerk that we can find. She has been a senior and influential public figure in this town for many years, yet most residents will not know what she looks like. This does not fit well with being an open and accountable council.

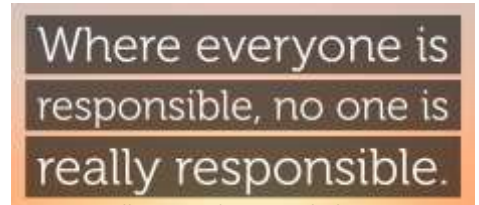
**What the Council does:** Market \* Cemetery \* Playgrounds \* Distribute £5K Worth of Grants \* Building Maintenance \* Planning Issues \* Events \* It spent **£562,000** of our money in 23/24. There were many changes in staff in the past year and recruitment is a costly exercise. Two staff who left in 2023 say they would not work for the Council again.

Are we getting high standards and value for money from this Council? *We provide evidence in many issues of WFP that suggests we aren't.*

Are they open and accountable? *Not in our view. Councillors simply ignore the majority of our reasonable and legitimate concerns and questions. See below for example.*

**The Basic Problem - No one councillor is ultimately responsible for anything. Joint responsibility means no responsibility. If one person is given actions/leadership, things usually get done.**

**When nobody takes overall responsibility, progress is much slower, standards are usually lower or things don't get done at all. Chairs of Committees ignore our questions. Meetings should have clear actions and deadlines. Few do.**



Albert Bandura, Psychologist

**Opportunity for any of our 15 Town Cllrs or Their Supporters to Say Anything to Residents**  
**Unedited, max 400 words** **Nothing Sent Yet**

## Minutes from Wetherby Town Council Meeting in September - Questions Unanswered

After every issue we ask the Town Clerk & the 15 Town Councillors to respond to our legitimate questions about the full Town Council meeting. Every Councillor ignores these emails and refuses to make any comment on serious issues. Following September's meeting we wrote to them: *Please read the latest issue of WFP and respond to all the relevant issues raised, and please answer the questions for which you know the answers, or are responsible for. If there are any errors, please tell me. Will anybody raise any of the issues at a Town Council meeting, please?* In particular, please would Town Councillors respond:

- to my invitation to meet you on the 2 dates on the front page. Or any other time, if you can't make it.
- and inform me of your actions in relation to any bus issues, particularly station exit blocking and Saturday Services (P4)
- and inform me of your individual and Council view on Wetherspoons. It is unclear from your statement (P6)
- to my question about Cllr Ager-Mills resignation from all cttes. Why is she still a Cllr? (P8)
- and inform me of the exact reasons for stopping using X / Twitter. The reason given was ludicrous (P9)
- to my question why the serious damage to the Church on Corner wall was not mentioned for 6 mths in minutes of Full Council meetings (P9)
- to the fact not a single shop, empty or otherwise, has a colourful facade, like on P9.

The above is polite and reasonable so why did all 15 Councillors ignore it? The Editor sends it from his personal email address too, writing as a resident, including "I am a constituent of Wetherby East so would like Cllrs Bradley, Lavocah, Knight, Newcombe & Payne in particular to respond." There is no reason why Councillors cannot make some sort of response, especially when one Councillor admits that she has hardly any direct contact from constituents.



This is ignorant behaviour and totally unacceptable in a public service paid for by us. Not one of them has arranged a meeting to discuss an issue. The Editor will not instigate a meeting because of absurd allegations of harassment that may be made. As it says above, Councillors hide behind joint responsibility. Their behaviour clearly shows they have no desire to be accountable to a local newsletter and its many readers, or a resident of 30+ years. We will continue to inform residents of this unacceptable behaviour and hope they remember this at election time.



From Any Cllr



This Dismal, Incorrect Sign for Visitors has been Outside the Town Hall for Years

# Wetherby Town Councillors Ignore Questions about Sept Mtg - cont'd from last page

Other questions we asked:

Why were the attendees from Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum not named? **NO ANSWER**

Who chaired the meeting, mayor or Town Clerk? Why isn't the Chair clearly stated? **NO ANSWER**

The meeting lasted less than 1 hour! Why was there so little discussion on matters raised? **NO ANSWER**

Why the sudden need for yet another member of staff (market supervisor)? **NO ANSWER**

Cllr Harrington reported that "there have been a number of recent business burglaries". Is it close to 3, 6, 10, 20, 30 ....? **NO ANSWER**

If we're lucky, we may get a response from the Town Clerk to our emails. She decided to respond to just 2 of our questions this time. Her response to the *Twitter / X* issue did not include any more useful information to answer the questions and was therefore pointless. She merely gave a link to information already in the minutes, which we were already fully aware of. This is unhelpful.



Councillors use it but not the Council! Why?

The minutes stated: "Wetherby Town Council's 'X' account is largely inactive, with most members of the public favouring Facebook for day-to-day use and interactions with the council. It was **AGREED** to deactivate Wetherby Town Council's 'X' account and open a Wetherby Town Council YouTube account to allow for embedded videos."

So we asked "Why did the Council not use X / Twitter?" **NO ANSWER**. The Council don't use their Twitter / X account so obviously people will use Facebook instead. They then close X / Twitter saying it's not being used. A *fait accompli*, as they say in France.

We pay for a Communications Officer, a luxury many other Town Councils don't have, so we should expect excellent and comprehensive communications via all major social media platforms. Twitter / X was, and still is, a very popular means of finding out what is going on. It is quick and simple to use. Some people don't use Facebook for many different valid reasons. Many Councillors use their own X / Twitter accounts frequently, yet the Council have decided not to use it. The Council refuse to address any of our arguments and defend their decision.

With so many questions unanswered over the last 3 years, it makes us wonder if this Council has something to hide. There seems to be a culture of 'we can do what we want and not have justify it'. They rewrote their complaints policy, meaning they can now ignore any questions or complaints they deem to be 'vexatious'. They gave no reason why they suddenly decided to change this policy. Was it anything to do with a certain community newsletter? The Council's actions are disturbing in a free society.

Ignoring simple questions is not acceptable. It would take a few minutes to answer most of them. It is especially galling when some Councillors seem to do little. There are Conservatives who have sat on the Council for many years who are not used to being made accountable by local media. Nobody is above criticism. We believe this old-fashioned attitude is why Wetherby has not progressed much at all in the last 20 years, especially compared to towns like Otley. As always, if you disagree we will publish your views unedited.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**  
It is not only what we do,  
but also what we do not do,  
for which we are accountable.  
(Molnar)

## Showcase Your Talent & Let's Brighten the Town Up

cont'd from page 6



Manchester



Leeds



Milan





# MP Alec Shelbrooke - No Opinion on 2 Leadership Contenders

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for over 14 years since May 2010. His basic salary is £91K.

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/](http://www.publicwhip.org.uk/)

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

Early 2024 Alec was awarded the one of the highest knighthood honours by Liz Truss. The Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) entitles him to be addressed as "Sir". He did not mention his honour on his social media but changed official images to say 'Sir Alec ...'

We do not call him "Sir" as he has shown no respect to us.

In 2024 he won 39% of the vote in our new constituency of Wetherby & Easingwold by just under 5,000 votes. He is now one of 121 Conservative MPs (compared to 402 Labour MPs).



## Space for Alec to Say Anything to Constituents Unedited, max 400 words

After every edition of WFP, we write to Alec for comment. He never responds to any of the reasonable, legitimate issues we raise.

Nothing received  
since we began 3+ years ago

[alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk)

The Conservative Party members and MPs have decided that Kemi Badenoch is their new leader. Alec first supported Priti Patel in her bid for the top job and she came last in the first vote. His next choice was James Cleverly, who did not make the final two.

We tried to find out who Alec supported - Kemi Badenoch or Robert Jenrick? We looked in vain. He would not give us his views on either candidate on his social media Twitter / X or Facebook. We have not seen or heard him on any national / local TV or radio programs for many weeks.

This is strange as he clearly gave his full support to other candidates. Did he think neither was good enough to deserve his support? Or was he hedging his bets to give himself a better chance of achieving the shadow post he prefers? We will never know. The two finalists are very different people with very different histories so we wonder why Alec couldn't make his mind up. Whatever his views were, he clearly thought it was none of our business knowing what they are.

If anybody wants to explain and defend Alec's silence on this or any other matter, we will gladly publish it.



Alec Supported Neither Candidate Publicly



To find out the big stories about the area in local media, we carry out a Google Search using

'Wetherby Boston Spa' in the News section

There were **no** results for the past 2 weeks. Either nothing happened here or there is gross under-reporting. That is why the *Free Press* is needed.

The best immediate source for traffic and police incidents is Yappapp on all social media.



## Spirit of Harmony Sing for their Supper



Wetherby's lower voice a capella harmony ensemble, *Spirit of Harmony*, sang for their supper when they entertained the gathering for *Wetherby Methodist Church's* annual Harvest Supper last month. Whilst singing 'The Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde', a couple of large decorative balloons burst, which added to the atmosphere, but unfortunately not in the most appropriate part of the song!

Several of the audience didn't hesitate to join in when invited to take part with the singers for Elvis Presley's 'I Can't Help Falling in Love with You'.



It was a joyous evening - lovely company, engaging entertainment and delicious food - a perfect evening.

*Spirit of Harmony* also contributed in no small measure to the musical entertainment at a packed Collingham Memorial Hall for October's Sunday Music Session. Dean Whitehouse explained that it was a wonderful opportunity for a smaller representative group to perform together in front of a very appreciative and encouraging audience.

However, new singers to the group will always be very welcome. No previous experience required!

Practice is at Wetherby Methodist Church Hall on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm.

Pop along or contact Dean at [jdfwhitehouse@gmail.com](mailto:jdfwhitehouse@gmail.com) or call him at 07923 957488

# Boston Spa Parents Launch Children's Community Art Competition

## Children's Art Competition!



Parents of a local primary school in Boston Spa have launched a **Children's Community Art Competition**, inviting primary school children from across the area to take part in a creative initiative. The competition, themed "Adventures in Nature", aims to inspire young artists to express their favourite outdoor activities through various forms of art.

**Open to primary school students across Boston Spa and surrounding villages**, the competition encourages children to showcase their artistic talent by drawing, painting or making sculptures that depict their personal adventures in nature. Children might choose to highlight moments such as walking in the forest, playing in the park or camping trips. A wide variety of colours and materials are encouraged to help young participants bring their visions to life.



The organisers are also calling on local businesses to support the competition through sponsorship or prize donations, no matter how small. Whether it's a financial contribution, a voucher, or a small product donation, every contribution will help to make the event a success.

The competition will be judged by Helen Morgan, a children's book illustrator, who will select the best and most creative pieces. Separate awards will be given for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 entries, with a total of eight prizes awarded to the winners. The winners will be contacted in advance and prizes will be presented on Saturday 23rd November 2024 at St Mary's Church in Boston Spa.

**Entries, along with a £2 cash-only entry fee**, can be submitted in person at St Mary's Church, Boston Spa on the following dates:

Saturday 16th November from 10-11 am

Sunday 17th November from 11-12 pm

Each entry must include the child's full name, age, primary school and a contact telephone number. Please note, only one entry per child is allowed and late submissions will not be accepted.

A **community Preview Evening will take place on Monday 18th November 2024** from 6-7 pm at St Mary's Church in Boston Spa. The event will showcase the children's artwork for families, friends and community members to enjoy. Tickets are available for £1 entry for adults, while children can attend for free. Guests are invited to enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits as they view the creative pieces from local children. All funds raised from the competition will go directly to support St Mary's Church of England Primary School's year six residential trip, helping to ensure every child has the opportunity to benefit from this enriching outdoor experience.

**Spokesperson for the parents, Jennifer Kitson, commented:**

"The Children's Community Art Competition is more than just an art contest—it's a chance for the community to come together, celebrate local talent and nurture children's appreciation for nature. It's also a unique opportunity for businesses to engage with the community, support young creativity and help raise funds for the school."

For more information on how to participate or sponsor the competition, please visit their Facebook page at <https://bit.ly/3zZBGcl>



Jennie Kitson outside St Mary's Church





## JACK AND THE MAGIC ROPE LADDER!

Adapted from an original script by Phil Lazenby

Performing:

- Weds 13 Nov (7:30pm)
- Thurs 14 Nov (7:30pm)
- Fri 15 Nov (7:30pm) **SOLD OUT**
- Sat 16 Nov (1:30pm) **SOLD OUT**
- Sat 16 Nov (5:30pm) **SOLD OUT**

Linton Memorial Hall (LS22 4HL)

Tickets are available from:

- Online: <https://wmtg.sumupstore.com>
- In-person from Breeze's Deli (LS22 6LQ)
- Email: [wetherbymtg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wetherbymtg@yahoo.co.uk)




Scan this image with your phone to book now ----->

Brought to you by Primrose Lane Primary PTA

## BOSTON SPA COMMUNITY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 2024

AT PRIMROSE LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GATES OPEN 5PM  
FIREWORKS @ 7PM

LICENSED BAR, HOT FOOD, MULLED WINE, CHILDREN'S RIDES & ACTIVITY STALLS

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
PRICES HELD FROM 2023:**

ADULT TICKET £5 IN ADVANCE OR £7 ON THE GATE  
CHILD TICKET £3 IN ADVANCE OR £5 ON THE GATE

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM DOUGLAS YEADON, COSTCUTTER OR PRIMROSE LANE PTA REPS  
CASH ONLY PLEASE



**BRINGING TOP TALENT TO WETHERBY FOLK CLUB**

**TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 7.30PM**

Our Mission continues in bringing a wide variety of top folk artists to Wetherby

Last December, we had a blast with Merry Hell at the Engine Shed. So, let's finish the year again with a night never to forget with one of the best live bands around with the brilliant PlumHall!

**BEST LIVE ACT FOLKING AWARD 2022**

**MERRY HELL**

13 YEARS TOGETHER. 6 ALBUMS RELEASED. 100'S OF GIGS PLAYED.

Multi-award winning Merry Hell is an 8-piece band offering joyful, uplifting folk-rock, with a message for troubled times. Their energy and passion is complimented by their love of what they do and desire to share hope and togetherness with as many people as are willing to listen. They offer voices of hope and beacons of light to anyone valuing both melody and positive humanity

**PLUMHALL**  
We are delighted to welcome back Plumhall after performing twice at Wetherby last year - once to raise money for Ukraine. They are renowned for their exquisite vocal harmonies and scintillating live guitar playing.

2022 kicked off spectacularly for the duo as they completed a triumphant 30-date tour with the legendary Fairport Convention as special guests. Their eagerly awaited third album 'One Star Awake' is a revelation.

www.wetherbyfolk.co.uk    steve@wetherbyfolk.co.uk

THE ENGINE SHED, YORK RD, WETHERBY, LS22 7SU

£22 OR £25 ON THE DOOR



**Bee-Crafty. Markets**

**Wetherby Christmas Craft Market**  
at  
**Wetherby Town Hall**  
**Saturday 16th November**

**10-3pm**

 Bee-Crafty Markets

**Wetherby News**

**NEWSWATCH**

We are recording the number of **general** news items about Wetherby / Boston Spa & villages. And the number of letters/emails from residents about the area in the published paper, costing £2.20.

We do this in the hope they will wake up and take up some of our stories. Not so far - they are ignoring most of the serious issues in our great town and do not deserve to have the word 'Wetherby' in their title. It makes our role more important than ever.

Issue of 24 Oct  
**News Items - 1    Letters - 0**  
Wedding Photographer in Final

Issue of 31 Oct  
**News Items - 1    Letters - 0**  
Charity Press Release

Issue of 7 Nov  
**News Items 2    Letters - 0**  
£28K raised for incubator. Prison for rapist.

*Incredibly, this paper carried no report on the local election for our Leeds City Councillor and Mayor of West Yorks in May '24. They do not report on, or attend Town Council meetings. The Wetherby News is not available in any library or on Leeds Libraries PressReader.*

**Town Hall Staff now write for the Yorks Post. Where are the real "journalists"?**

**WE DESERVE BETTER**

**Wetherby Foodbank**



We'd like to say a HUGE "Thank You" to

- \* the team at *Specsavers* in Wetherby
- \* all the pupils, parents and staff at  
*Lady Elizabeth Hastings School* in Collingham  
*Harewood Primary School*  
*Deighton Gates Primary School*
- \* *All Saints Church* in Bramham and *St Mary's Church* in Boston Spa

**Your donations, large or small, make a real difference, THANK YOU ALL!**

# New England Manager is German - Thomas Tuchel



**Don't Mention The VAR!**  
**TUCHEL IS THE WURST!**  
**Herr Ve Go, Herr Ve Go, Herr Ve Go!**

Thanks to Private eye for the inevitable tabloid headlines above, and the joke to the left (worth buying for the humour alone). I love all things German, particularly my wife!, but this is a ridiculous move for one simple reason - conflict of interest. Where does Mr Tuchel's loyalties really lie when England face Germany in the semis or final? And his main motivation for taking the job must be money, surely, not pride or love for his country. It's a crazy world, folks.



Legends Rob Burrow & Kevin Sinfield illuminated on Leeds Civic Hall for Leeds Light Night



Championship



Ex Man Utd star Rooney received the expected welcome at Leeds

**Plymouth Manager, Wayne Rooney**, was haranged by the Elland Road crowd with 'you're getting sacked in the morning' as his team lost 3 - 0 with not a single shot on goal. Their dismal performance does not show Championship football as the highest quality but 36,000 Leeds fans saw Dan James score a wonder goal.

United then lost for the first time in 9 matches at Millwall mid-week. They dominated the game by every measure - shots on goal, corners, possession but could not reply to the home side's goal in the 40th minute. It was Millwall's fourth 1 - 0 win on the trot. United are comfortably in the top 5.

- Utd v QPR on Sat 9 Nov at 15.00
  - Swansea v Utd on Sun 24 Nov at 15.00
  - Utd v Luton on Wed 27 Nov at 19.45
  - Blackburn v Utd on Sat 30 Nov at 13.30
- All games on

**Wetherby Free Press**  
 News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

[www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)



**"You're not a journalist"** Correct. Sadly, there are very few proper journalists who ask the right questions to those in authority. We strive for the highest standards in providing facts and common sense opinions. The question is why critics would prefer no news publication in Wetherby, except the two items a week max in Wetherby News, often copy & paste press releases

**"You're always criticising people but what do you do for the community?"** Yes, we criticise people in authority and who spend our money or represent the town, and we clearly state the facts our views are based upon. The fact there is much to criticise is not our fault. The question is why our critics think that such criticism should not be published (when they have the opportunity to write in and put a different view, but don't take it). WFP is full of other non-critical news and information but that is ignored by critics.

- As for what the Editor does for the community, he:
- \* volunteers \* campaigns for better buses \* raised £2500 for local charity so far \* edits this newsletter
  - \* promotes the town on Social Media \* picks litter up \*



In 2023 we Supported **25** Local Charities & Organisations

Send us your to [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

## Your Community Newsletter Editor: Paul Kirby

Contact Us Email: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)  
 Tel: 07840 862861 Twitter/X: @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 don't do interviews, as we are not professionals (but have high standards). We are not 'journalists' - we simply say what we see.

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

The Editor has had 4 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest online critics have turned up yet to have a civilised face-to-face debate.

**Please donate online at**

[www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)

to cover printing costs **Thank You**



**There are people in this town who want to restrict free speech**

- ◆ They do not want this community newsletter to exist
- ◆ We call them the *Wetherby Mafia*
- ◆ They contact our supporters and 'persuade' them to stop supporting us
- ◆ There has been a conspiracy of silence between the 2 parties so far
- ◆ The *Mafia* seem to have some influence in the town and use bribery, misinformation or fear on their victims
- ◆ They refuse to write to us and debate the issues they are upset about
- ◆ They refuse to meet the Editor face-to-face
- ◆ They are anonymous cowards and bring Wetherby into disrepute
- ◆ This is a small cliquy town and many must know who the *Mafia* are
- ◆ Inevitably the *Mafia* will be found out and legal action will be taken
- ◆ These sad individuals have failed - *Wetherby Free Press* gets stronger

**If you know who they are, please do the right thing**

In April 2024 we had 1000 online visits in 2 days

NEXT ISSUE Fri 29 Nov 2024