

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2016

2016 has been another successful year for the Wetherby Civic Society. The highlight has undoubtedly been leading the successful funding and refurbishment of the Whitaker Memorial Shelter (aka Old Men's Parliament) which re-opened in May. We have also successfully pushed officialdom to maintain our infrastructure, including the replacement of fencing along Linton Road. We have continued to monitor planning applications within Wetherby and, where necessary, to try to mitigate development plans, with varying success, e.g. we believe that the new retirement homes on York Road will have insufficient parking spaces and this will cause congestion on this busy corner, but our request that the plans should have more parking were turned down.

We were successful in persuading Leeds City Council to open the former Wetherby District Council offices to the public during the Heritage Open Days, 8-11 September, but not in persuading them to advertise it! During that weekend we again held a very successful guided Town Walk, with 28 people taking advantage to find out more about the town. (Incidentally another walk will take place Sunday 16 October, starting at 10.30a.m. from the bandstand in the Wilderness car park; no booking required.) There were also a number of visitors to the opened bath house on the same day. We shall be repeating these openings and walks next year, but with more publicity.

Crossley Street School received one of our blue plaques to commemorate 100 years continuous use as the first non-denominational school in Wetherby. The plaque to commemorate "Ginger Lacey's" birthplace is ready to go onto the new Aldi supermarket upon which work has just commenced. We also undertook a condition review and cleaning of the existing blue plaques to remove traffic grime.

Members made full use of our varied visits programme to a mixture of places including, Cutler's Hall, Stockeld Park, Bar Convent, Ilkley Toy Museum and the Recycling and Energy Recovery facility in Leeds. Next year's programme promises a similarly eclectic mixture including a textile mill, Selby Abbey and a tour of Aldborough. If you would like to find out more about Aldborough before the walk, come to our final 2016 meeting on Monday 10 October at 7-30p.m. to hear Mike Turpin's talk on "Roman Aldborough and the Antiquarians".

Recognising that Wetherby Civic Society has hid its light under a bushel, conscious efforts have been made this year to increase our profile in the town. The main element is that we now have a regular slot on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. with Jon Bee on Tempo FM. Why not listen in to hear what is happening in your Society? You may also have noticed more articles about the Society in the Wetherby News. 2017 will see more efforts to publicise our Society and attract new members.

The trees which we have planted throughout Wetherby continue to thrive despite, or perhaps because of, December's rain. The War Memorial project identifying and reviewing the memorials in and around Wetherby was completed. We also supported the "Walking in Wetherby" publication which is selling well.

Finally, it is farewell and many thanks to Andrew Gordon who is not standing for re-election to the Executive Committee this year. We need more members to join the committee which is not a time consuming job; so don't be bashful and volunteer.

Roger Taylor
Chairman