
Wetherby Civic Society

Spring Newsletter

April 2006

PLANNING MATTERS

Although we have not seen any new major applications over the winter months, the Society's planning sub-committee continues to keep a watching brief on all applications in the Wetherby Ward. In one application we were concerned that some mature trees would be at risk and we were pleased to receive confirmation of our views from the appropriate department of Leeds City Council. In the event the application was withdrawn but we shall continue to keep any eye on the site since it is our

experience that this will not be the end of the matter.

COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 22nd April 2006
The Bathhouse,
Jubilee Gardens
Westgate, Wetherby
10.30am-12.30pm
Donations in aid of planting scheme

Comments have been made to us that there seems to be no quality mark for design in the Wetherby area. Here, of course, we are entering into matters of taste since what is

good design for one person may be horrible in the eyes of another. There is a way round this and that would be to draft a design statement for the town. The drawback is that the production of a design statement is a costly and time-consuming business. That they can be done is not in question - it is just finding some organisation with the resources to take the initiative in getting it off the ground and the co-operation and participation of local government.

Members will be pleased to have noted that the four major building projects works which have dominated the town over the past couple of years are all either completed or will be very shortly. Whatever our views may be, at least we may be grateful that the associated disruption has ended or will be over quite soon.

One of the consequences is that the old station site is now no longer a builder's yard and the prison like fence erected several years ago has gone. The Society will make representations if this area is just left to decay.

BUILDING & ENVIRONMENT

Another result is that access to the site of Wetherby Castle has to be made available at least three days in each year. At the moment we are looking at how at least part of this requirement may be satisfied by opening the site during the Heritage Open Days week-end in September. We are also investigating the practicalities of a blue plaque at the entrance to the development with a brief history of the short-lived Castle on the site.

The Society was much encouraged when representatives were invited to

attend a meeting of Leeds City Officers connected with the up grading and partial pedestrianisation of the market Place. We put up some ideas, which we had hoped might have been taken further if once again the realisation of the scheme had not been postponed. We fully understand and sympathise with the reasons given but must be concerned that something else will be found for putting off the whole thing again when January 2007 comes around. Perhaps by then though we may have an inkling of the long promised traffic management scheme.

We have continued with our tree-planting programme on the Ings. None of this year's

planting has been adopted by anybody. We are always grateful for donations. Many

made in the past have been in memory of a loved one but they do not have to be so.

Any person who loves trees is welcome as a donor. If you know of anyone who would

like to donate please ask them to contact either the Secretary

or Peter Maun our tree convenor

COFFEE MORNING

Writing this on a cold blustery April day it seems as if summer is still far away but nevertheless our events have raised a good deal of interest. We have already visited Hawes and on April 22nd, with Wetherby in Bloom, we shall be holding a coffee morning in the Georgian Bathhouse in the grounds of the Jubilee Gardens at Wharfedale Lawn. Wetherby Camera Club will be joining us and giving an exhibition of members' work.

Please come along anytime between 10.30am and 12.30pm. There is no set charge but all donations of cash and shady loving plants will be gratefully received! All proceeds will be used to enhance the woodland garden on the site. This will be your opportunity to see the results of two years of hard work on the woodland garden by some of our members, Wetherby in Bloom and the Weir Trust.

SUMMER EVENTS

Our summer events are detailed below. All those who have returned the original booking form will be asked to confirm their attendance at each event in good time beforehand. If you have not already advised the Secretary that you wish to attend a particular event please contact him as soon as possible as there may be vacant places still available.

Thursday 11th May
Stockeld Park Wetherby Guided Tour by the Owner of the house - Mr Grant.
3.00pm & 5.30pm £7.50

Wednesday June 14th
Helmsley Walled Garden
2.00pm £7.00 to include guided tour followed by tea and cakes.

Thursday 6th July
Norton Conyers House, nr Ripon
1.30pm Introductory talk by Sir James or Lady Graham then a conducted tour by one of the guides. £8.00. House tearoom

Wednesday 13th September
Armley Mills Industrial Museum, Leeds
11.00am Bring packed lunch. Tea and coffee available at the museum. £2.00
Spinning & weaving demonstration at 3.00pm

7th - 10th September
Heritage Open Days
Details available early summer on www.heritageopendays.org

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY
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