



WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - MR. PETER MAUN

A good deal has happened and been achieved since our October newsletter by the willing members of the Executive Committee. As an example many members enjoyed the Autumn Lecture given after the AGM by the Governor of Wealston Prison - Mrs. Norma Harrington (a local girl). Speaking beyond the allotted time the talk attracted many questions from the Members present.

The Spring Lecture in March given by our own Executive Committee Member Victor Hawkins on The Old Wetherby Rural District Council Area was very interesting and well received.

As I write this I feel sure that many of us will already be thinking of booking our places for what Mary Barnett our Events Organiser has planned during 2011.

We continue to offer Guided Tours of the Town and later this year we will be escorting members of Barwick in Elmet Historical Society round the Town.

Our work continues and we look forward to many more members joining us in what we consider to be a very worthwhile cause.

EVENTS - MARY BARNETT

Following the successful year in 2010, we begin this year's visits with and outing to the British Library. The number of visitors allowed in the Library on any day is limited to thirty but this proved such a popular event that an additional date in October has been offered to us. However, both dates, April and October are now fully subscribed.

We are very fortunate this year to have been offered an opportunity to visit Farnley Hall, Otley, the home of the Horton-Fawkes family who regularly entertained the man who is, arguably, England's finest landscape painter, J.M.W. Turner. Many of Turner's paintings are on display in Farnley Hall. Details of the visit are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Interest in the remaining four outings has been good. If you have not yet expressed an interest in any of the events but wish to do so, please contact Mary Barnett on 01937 587298. Further details regarding each event will be sent to those who have expressed an interest nearer the dates of the visits.

PLANNING GROUP - NIC SHEPPARD

The planning group continues to keep a watchful eye on applications that chiefly affect the town centre. Currently these are mainly small changes to the front of business premises and do not cause any particular concern. It is in everyone's interest that the town has a busy retail trade without detracting from the overall character of the town. Once again the big supermarket debate has raised its head, firstly with the suggestion of Tesco taking over the site of the Old Star Inn in Collingham, and more recently Sainsbury's having an interest in the site of the Ramada Jarvis Hotel. As and when plans are made available the Civic Society will be taking an active part in the consultations.

TREES REPORT - RUTH WHEELER

Due to the hard Winter Pullans had to wait until spring to plant the trees that we had agreed with Wetherby Town Council. The Executive Committee had agreed to plant two lime trees to go either side of the new bench which we were donating for Scaur Bank; this is quite near to the green footbridge over the River Wharfe. We also agreed to plant three other lime trees further along the path next to the river near the steps. The seat was duly installed and then Andrew Pullan planted five good sized lime trees in February and surrounded each with timber and wire mesh guards. He also replaced free of charge as aspen at the far end of The Ings which had died after being planted the previous year. I see these trees frequently as I often walk our dog around The Ings and Scaur Bank and they were looking good and healthy with fat leaf buds. Our Town Clerk Barbara Ball reported that over the weekend of the second/third April one of the trees had been vandalised. When I went down to investigate I found that the fourth tree had been snapped off level with the top of the cage and is beyond repair. I took photographs, checked with our Chairman and reported the incident (with photos) to the Wetherby News office and to Barbara Ball. Vandalism of trees unfortunately is something all communities have to suffer and finding the culprits to pay for their mindlessness is virtually impossible. Incidentally one of the lime trees on the Millennium Field has also been broken and set on fire over a similar period. However spring is certainly springing, with beautiful blossom in many places as well as daffodils everywhere; a real pleasure and bonus after the past severe winter.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY - JEAN CHAPMAN

To save the Society money on postage and paper we are hoping that you will agree to us sending the newsletter and any other information by email, to those of you have the facility. Your email addresses will be secure and not passed on to anyone else or any other society. We would also ask you for your telephone number. It was realised after the awful winter that we had last year, if we had to cancel an event we couldn't get in touch with you to let you know what was happening, which would mean a wasted journey for members. If you are willing to do this would you please send me your name and the first line of your home address (just in case we have members with the same surname), your telephone number and your email address to jean@wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk or telephone 01937 520591 or pop it through the door at the address below.

If you have any queries on the email system or the web site our website wizard is Martin Rowe who can be contacted by email: martin@wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk

You can find us on the web at www.wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk

Mrs. Jean Chapman, Odyssey, 30 North Grove Approach, Wetherby, LS22 7GA