

---

# Wetherby Civic Society

## Autumn Newsletter

[www.wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk)

October 2010

---

### *CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS*

#### *PETER MAUN*

It is difficult to believe that another year has gone by since I took over the reins of the Society as Chairman and we look forward once again to our AGM at the Ramada Hotel on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm.

Then again a good deal has happened and been achieved on your behalf during these months by the willing members of the Executive Committee. As an example many of you enjoyed the Spring Lecture during March given by Martyn Lunn on behalf of the British Library at Thorp Arch. In addition visits to some really interesting places around the County were almost oversubscribed on occasions thanks to the considerable efforts of our new Events Organiser, Mary Barnett. As I write this I feel sure that many of us will already be thinking of booking your seats for more of the same during 2011. I am sure Mary will be able to give us a good idea of what to expect at the AGM.

On a more serious note during September, it was decided to mark the sad demise of Marie Fox, a much missed member of the Executive Committee, by the adoption of a tree with a suitable plaque. The tree chosen was on the Ings where Marie often walked with Joseph her much loved whippet. The event on an early autumn afternoon was greatly

appreciated by a group of family and friends and members of the Society.



*Marie's daughters and grandson with Joseph and his walker – Roger Bealey - on the day the tree and plaque was dedicated to her memory.*

Taking a wider view, our heartfelt congratulations are due to Geoff Humble and his band of hard working volunteers at Wetherby in Bloom on obtaining a silver gilt medal at this year's Britain in Bloom event. To lose out to the City of London is no disgrace considering the disparity in resources available but even if there is a slight measure of disappointment that takes nothing away from the pleasure they give to the residents and visitors to the town.

The Society contributed its own little bit to the success of Wetherby by organising a cleanup of the Blue Plaques and it was gratifying to see in the judges' comments a complimentary reference to the many plaques around

the town. With assistance from Wetherby Historical Trust a new blue plaque was erected on the site of the old indoor cattle market.

Our June event in the Jubilee Gardens was hit by poor weather but those who did turn up thoroughly enjoyed the intriguing pictorial quiz devised by Nic Sheppard and Victor Hawkins. Quite a few of us learnt something new about Wetherby.

We continue to offer guided walks of the Town centre and this year we hosted a visit from the Cleveland Association of National Trust

Members. We also provided a tour for the Wetherby Women's Institute and participated in the Wetherby Festival with a guided tour on a beautiful autumn afternoon. Further supplies of our Town Trail leaflet have been delivered to Wetherby Library.

Since we had the funds available, we decided to complete our tree planting programme on the Ings during the 2009-2010 planting season. Where to go next has not been resolved. If any of you know of any land to which the public has access which would benefit from having some trees planted, please inform Ruth Wheeler.

#### *PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT*

Ever since the collapse of the credit market we have been seeing very little in the way of significant new development in Wetherby. Just this week there was just one planning application and that was for an extension to a residential property. However, there has been some commercial development in the town which we must welcome. Nothing destroys the character of a small town more than empty shops and abandoned business premises.

So it is good to see four retail units at the southern end of the High Street where there just used to be one and a struggling public house. The landmark

shops in the Market Place standing empty.

One of the Society's concerns is the proliferation of banner advertisements with even some appearing on listed buildings and within the Conservation Area. We have taken this up with enforcement officers in the Planning Department but they tell us that these come within the deemed consent provisions of the advertising regulations. This may be right, but they do nothing for the look of the town nor can they enhance a business reputation particularly when they are damaged by wind and weather, as is so often the case.

And what to do about the proliferation of A boards and other free standing advertising boards which do come within the advertising regulations? In one small area recently we counted 15! Putting aside the hazards they must impose on the pedestrian negotiation of the area, they must in the end be self defeating in promoting an individual business since any single message

**Annual General Meeting**  
Ramada Hotel, Wetherby  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm  
Followed by a talk from Ms Norma Harrington, Governor of Wealstun Prison

Angel Inn in the High Street has gained a new lease of life as an Italian Restaurant. The sub Post Office has found a new home but there are still

must be lost amongst the 14 others competing for attention.

It is understandable that in difficult economic times businesses will seize on anything which they believe may increase trade. However, a more considered approach may just be as rewarding.

The coalition government has signalled that it wants to see local people having a greater say in what happens in their own patch. It has made good on this aspiration by already responding to reservations often expressed about so called garden grabbing in which gardens are sold for housing development.

As explained in an earlier Newsletter the government's advice that gardens are not brownfield sites will not end

the practice but only make it subject to the full planning process.

In the greater emphasis on localism there is the danger that we shall see a growth in "not in my backyard" syndrome thus halting or slowing down necessary development. At least the people of Wetherby need no encouragement to protect enhance and promote their town if the evidence provided by Wetherby in Bloom, the Weir Preservation Trust, the host of active charities devoted to improving the town and the lives of its inhabitants, our Town Councillors, who double up as Trustees of the Town Hall, and our own small contributions are anything to go by.

If the "big society" has to be revived, Wetherby does not need any lessons because it has been alive and well here for generations!

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY					
FINANCIAL RESULTS YEAR ENDING 30 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010					
(Unaudited)					
<i>Receipts</i>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<i>Payments</i>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	£	£		£	£
Subscriptions	1541	1544	Administration	964	1098
Tax Reclaim	385	387	Tree Planting Costs	1745	931
Donations Received	580	1101	Donations Paid		
Tax Reclaim	31	49	Blue Plaque	650	-----
Bequest	333	----	Wetherby in Bloom	---	130
Event Receipts	2078	2078	Subscriptions Paid	312	145
Less Costs	(1899)	(1841)	Jubilee Gardens	62	57
Interest	9	36	Total Payments	3733	2361
Total Receipts	<u>3058</u>	<u>3354</u>	Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(675)</u>	<u>993</u>
SOCIETY FUNDS AS AT 30 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER					
				2010	2009
				£	£
Lloyds TSB Current Account				716	901
Leeds Building Society				<u>2797</u>	<u>3287</u>
				<u>3513</u>	<u>4188</u>

**Secretary:** Mr Derek Gulland, 16 Chestnut Avenue, Wetherby, LS22 6SG,  
Tel. No. (01937) 583729

Email:derek@wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk Registered Charity No: 1031927

