

## WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY – ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Here we are, another year had gone by and another AGM. As usual the year has gone quickly. Our talks and visits have been well attended and Peter Catton will report on that later, the visit to RAF Linton on Ouse was outstanding. I wonder what will to all their memorial room material?

Nic Sheppard and his team have continued to monitor planning applications, from the good use of redundant buildings with the residential development proposed behind the Library in Wetherby of what was Billy Bird's old builders yard to the further development on the County boundary at Spofforth Hill, but more on that later.

Jean Chapman has continued as Secretary, keeping us all on the straight and narrow, for which I am very grateful and after six years of concise financial reports our treasurer Margaret Crawford is standing down. Our very grateful thanks to Margaret for her steady and reliable support over this time. Angela Winterbottom will be taking over this role.

As to our achievements this year –

1. We were approached by the CPRE, who thought Wetherby was under siege by developers. As a result, we organised a public meeting in the Town Hall, having to turn many people away as the downstairs room and kitchen was full to capacity. As a result of that meeting the Better Wetherby Partnership has come about, which has been active in the Spofforth Hill matter, showing the effect of the combined strength together of various groups who have the same objectives. The Society has also been mentioned in various planning reports which we have commented on.
2. We continue our last Thursday in the month guest spot on Jon Bee's programme on Tempo FM, Wetherby's own radio station. If I can't make it, Nic and Peter do so.
3. Guided Town Walks – we continue to lead walks for the Arts Festival and other events. This year we have done two further walks for the East Riding

Art Fund and the Harrogate branch of the National Trust. The income helps WCS funds and spreads the word about Wetherby.

4. Angela and Peter continue to tap into the news columns of the Wetherby News, which shows the usefulness of an active local press and media. We have continued to think about our website, which will be subject to review in the next few months.
5. We continue to talk to the Old Men's Parliament, putting them in touch with the U3A fettleers group, who repainted the weathered White Hart Yard sign after two members of OMP had removed it and then replaced it afterwards.
6. Again a triumph for a member of OMP, John Trower, who was instrumental some years ago in securing the Royal Navy anchor – from Scapa Flow - that once stood outside Roger Fields premises, then the Wetherby Social Club and now sits at the coach drop off point at the Cluster of Nuts car park. We are involved in a suitable information plaque or sign, recording the role of the Royal Navy in Wetherby, explaining why the anchor is there, jointly with the Historical Trust.

As usual we do need more members of the Society, please tell your friends and more help on the committee, to spread the load out a bit! In this regard my thanks to Peter for all his work on the Spofforth Hill matter and the Better Wetherby Partnership. I am happy to remain as chairman for a further year, as are my remaining committee colleagues.

As I always say, my thanks to you the membership for your support and my particular thanks to all the committee members for their support and work throughout the year, which I very much appreciate.

Return to the agenda.....