

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2017

Membership has increased this year, reversing some previous years of decline but we still need more members if we can truly represent the interests of those wishing to maintain Wetherby as an attractive town. We also need more Committee members to help in our work and we were very pleased to welcome Angela Winterbottom to the Committee this year.

Peter Catton arranged excellent visits to Selby Abbey, Hainsworth Mill, Aldborough Roman site and village, Adel Church and York Gate Gardens and Goldsborough Hall and Church. In addition, this year we tried out a Summer Talk, entitled "The Georgian Townhouse Revealed" in the Council Offices. We shall have a similar event next year. This year's Spring talk was given by Victor Hawkins on "The Great Sale of Wetherby – 1824" and the AGM talk was by Jackie Depelle on "The Fulneck Moravian Settlement", which we shall be visiting in June next year.

In consultation with a small group of members, Nic Sheppard has continued to monitor planning applications, ranging from applications for new High Street ATM's to the site off Racecourse Approach and other developments.

Ruth Wheeler has continued to keep an eye on our trees, which flourish after some major maintenance work. We still have some undedicated trees on the lngs to which, for a small fee, a plaque can be attached to remember a loved one.

I am very grateful to Margaret Crawford as our Treasurer and to Jean Chapman our Secretary. These two ladies make the efficient running of the Society possible and it is good to see we are still in a sound financial position. Vic Hawkins has been our vice chairman for another year and I have appreciated the support of Vic and all the committee members. I will be happy to remain chairman in the 2017 – 2018 year.

We have continued our regular appearances on Tempo FM, with publicity for our events and what we do. Peter and Nic have stood in for me when I was elsewhere. We are looking, with Tempo, at possibly building some programmes round the work done on the Wetherby Worthies part of our website. With the help of Ian Leadley from the Historical Trust and Vic, our vice chairman

It was disappointing to me to see that on completion of the War Memorial survey of all memorials in the old Wetherby RDC area, Vic sent the report to London, only to be told they only wanted to know about Memorials that need repair; not what we had been lead to expect.

We have a new blue plaque at the new Aldi supermarket on Deighton Road. Wetherby had a memorable day when the plaque was unveiled and the RAF Battle of Britain Flight's Lancaster made three passes over the supermarket, each one lower than before. The noise of four Merlin engines and the crowd won't be forgotten. We had good coverage on both BBC and ITV regional news. My thanks to everyone who helped, especially Edna Hilditch and Aldi, who sponsored the reception afterwards at the Wetherby Social Club.

Our regular exposure in the Wetherby News, continues and we have attended a number of meetings and made representations with regards to the Wetherby area plan and the Leeds Site Allocation plan.

Our application to register the Council offices as an asset of community value failed, on very technical grounds, but we are not giving up on it and will be following the matter up as soon as we can.

Peter had persuaded Leeds City Council to open the Council Offices during the recent Wetherby Activities Day, but no one had told the staff, so the people who came to look at the Council Chamber were disappointed as the door remained locked. However Peter had a good attendance at the Bath House. As soon as the bath itself can be dried out there are plans to redecorate the building. We supported the Activities Day with a stand at the High School. Whilst we gained two new members the attendance was still lower than hoped for, but the wet weather didn't help at all.

We have continued with our town walks. Nic led the local Beavers on a tour, Vic looked after some Harrogate Ladies and another walk as part of the Wetherby Festival was well attended.

The Wetherby Worthies part of our website has gone live. With input from Ian Leadley of the Historical Trust, Nic and Vic, this detailed list of people who have made a significant contribution to Wetherby and locally has been put together. The list is edited by Nic, who can add further information to the site, or make changes, as information comes in. The site is linked to the Town Council site and there is also a link to the Wetherby War Memorial Site, which lists all the Men shown on the memorial at Bridge Foot. The plan is for this to become a regularly used and growing resource of Wetherby people.

As ever my grateful thanks to the Committee for their support and to you the membership; without you all we couldn't continue.

Roger Taylor
Chairman