

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Here we are again; another year has gone by and another AGM will soon be under our belts. Our talks and visits have been well attended and Peter Catton will report on that later, with some fascinating places to visit, Hazlewood Castle was a high light, I learned a lot about the Castle through an excellent guide. It was particularly good that a number of owners guided us round on our visits.

As you know, this year is 25 years from when we were founded and to celebrate the Silver Jubilee we have –

1. Introduced a special logo for the year reflecting our service to the town.
2. Had a lunch at the Scotts Arms, Sicklinghall.
3. Planted a commemorative tree in the Millenium Gardens.
4. Published a review of all the war memorials in the old Wetherby RDC area. We will be presenting a copy to each relevant Parish Councils.

A limited number of copies will be available to those who want one at £10.

Nic Sheppard and team have continued to monitor planning applications more on that later from Nic. The excellent example of reusing redundant buildings with the proposed residential use of Billy Bird's old yard behind the library is to be commended, as well as the outstanding refurbishment of the last but one surviving town water pump in the Swan & Talbot yard.

Jean Chapman has continued as Secretary, keeping us all on the straight and narrow, for which I am very grateful and Angela Winterbottom has completed her first year as Treasurer. Thank you to both of them.

I must mention the recent death of Cllr Gerald Wilkinson. He did a lot for Wetherby and was always happy to talk to us, he will be missed.

As to our achievements this year –

1. The Better Wetherby Group has developed into a strong representative group, Peter will be reporting on the Civic Society part in its efforts with Racecourse Approach and Spofforth Hill.
2. On the last Thursday in the month we have a guest spot on Jon Bee's programme on Tempo FM, Wetherby's own radio station. If I can't make it, Nic and Peter ably stand in for me.
3. Guided Town Walks – we continue to lead walks for the Arts Festival – their next walk is on Sunday 20th October, 2:00 at the Bandstand - and other events, including on Heritage Open Day. With the Council Offices open to the public.

4. We continue to tap into the news columns of the Wetherby News, who are always happy to take what we write or the photographs we send them.
5. The Blue Plaques have been washed this year.
6. Members assisted with the preparation and planting of the Cluster of Nuts garden, under the auspices of Wetherby In Bloom. We took on responsibility for painting the anchor itself, which we did and obtained sponsored aluminium paint from Advanced Guard Coatings of Audby Lane. We paid for the explanatory plaque.

We are grateful to Dave Norminton and Craig Burton who have worked hard to produce a new WCS website, which celebrates what we do and is now the go-to place for over 80 pages of colourful local history with over 3500 users having visited the website since its launch.

As usual we do need more members of the Society, please tell your friends, also more help on the Executive Committee would be welcome. (to help spread the load).

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.

Roger Taylor
Chairman
10 October 2019