



Sent on behalf of all the Committee by
Jean Chapman, Secretary

Hello Everybody and Welcome to our Newsletter. We thought you would appreciate a few lines from the Committee so you know we have not forgotten you. Below are some comments from each of us with a photograph, so you will recognise us at our meetings and visits, also what we do on the Committee.



Roger Taylor
Chairman

Peter Catton
Vice Chairman

Jean Chapman
Secretary

Angela Winterbottom
Treasurer



Nic Sheppard
Planning Sub Committee

Julie Turner
Organises Venues

Mary Barnett
Helps & Advises

Victor Hawkins
Historical Information

Roger Whilst riding my bike around Wetherby roads and the old A1, all devoid of traffic in this lockdown because of the Covid-19 virus situation I found the following: Wetherby looks different, you can see what the planners call the "Street Scene" and how it all fits together into one whole, delightful limestone market town. You can hear the birds singing! We had a full and vibrant programme of visits and talks for you this Spring and Summer, all of which are postponed until we are allowed to gather together again for meetings, when it is considered safe to do so. I am not able to do my monthly slot on Tempo FM, which I do miss, as the studio has stopped all external visitors. I have had the role of Chairman for some time now. Mainly I chair the committee meetings and make sure what we want to do gets done, but it wouldn't work without the support of our committee and you the members, so please do talk about us to your friends and contacts, as we need more members!

Peter Previously for four years I have organised the visits and talks programme but now am just organising the talks programme. Our aim is to provide three relevant, well presented talks each year, a seemingly simple target, but it is difficult to find good speakers who are willing to accept only our modest fee. Suggestions are always welcome. I also represent the Wetherby Civic Society to Councils on the very large planning applications for Wetherby, the most recent being Stockeld Park/Spofforth Hill and the Racecourse Approach applications. Previously, your Society had not involved itself in such applications, but observing the potential effect on Wetherby of such gross enlargement, the Committee felt that they were well within each of our stated objectives. Our Chairman, Roger Taylor, was instrumental in organising the open meeting in 2018 which highlighted the looming problems to our citizens. I also represent the Society on the Better Wetherby Steering Committee whose aims on large scale building sites mesh with our own. As Vice Chairman, I take particular interest in trying to increase our membership, albeit not always successfully. At present, we are holding our own on numbers, but it is a Sisyphean task as we continually replace leaving members with new. The size of membership is important in involving Wetherby in the task of looking after our town's architecture and culture and demonstrating to others that we

represent the citizens in these matters. Obviously, we would welcome you recommending our membership to your friends. I also stand in for the Chairman when he is unavailable.

Nic I check on line all the weekly planning applications that are made within the Wetherby Conservation Area (chiefly the town centre) and I fish out any that I think the Civic Society would wish to comment on. At the current time these are few and far between. However, when an application of interest does come up, I circulate the details to a small group of members for comment. If others feel there is a need for comment, I collate the reasons for our objections and recommendations and post them on to Leeds City Council Planning Committee. In addition I work closely with one of our members, Craig Burton, in overseeing and developing the Civic Society Website. The site draws considerable public interest with as many as 500 visitors in one month and generates several enquiries, such as the Architect of St. Joseph's Church wanting illustrations for a book he is writing about his work. The Summer months give opportunity to join the group of volunteers who lead guided town walks which is both good fun and usually an opportunity to learn something new along the way.

Jean I am the pesky lady who keeps asking you to return the GDPR forms, completed and signed. We do need one for EACH person in the household regardless of it containing the same information. You can return them by email, post or even put them through my letter box if you should be passing the end of my road on your keep fit walks or shopping exploits. You normally see me taking minutes at the annual general meeting. The more involved minutes taking is at our committee meetings, the agendas for each meeting are put together by me with input from the rest of the committee. If there is anything you would like to tell or ask of the committee please let me know and I will make sure it goes on the agenda. Our committee meetings are usually held every six weeks but at the moment they are suspended but we do keep in touch by email and telephone. On my keep fit walks with Harry (my husband) I have been along footpaths that I never knew existed, including one through the new estate on Spofforth Hill. It is terrible to confess but in the nearly thirty years I have lived in Wetherby I went along the road past the Rugby Club at Grange Park for the first time. It is a dead end but quite a nice walk alongside the river to a few houses in a lovely place. The old railway track leads to some interesting walks, unfortunately the tea shop at the farm along the track is now closed, no chance of tea and cakes!

Julie As the newest member of the committee I am the one who organises the venues for our talks. This involves speaking with staff at the venues, visiting to see if the room is suitable, making the booking and making sure that everything is organised for the actual meeting i.e. the room layout, chairs, refreshments, all to make our meetings go smoothly. I am also looking to develop the Society's use of social media.

Mary I am the committee member without a position – there to help when necessary. I wonder how well we each know the area we live in - Wetherby: the Golden Triangle: Yorkshire? I walk in Wetherby quite a lot and am always amazed at how many new places I find. In this time of confinement, walking through the various estates in the town I have found many small ginnels, usually between hedges or fences and always leading somewhere new – perhaps from an estate on the Harland Way, another walking area, or a short cut to the other side of Wetherby. I have found a walk through Spofforth Park estate (the Bellway estate) at the top of Spofforth Hill will take me very quickly into the Glebefields estate then through a ginnel onto the Harland Way and across into a friend's street not far from Aldi, and there are very few people walking around these estates. Not only does walking estates/ginnels/paths give us a chance to see different parts of our town, it also gives us new ideas for our own houses and gardens by seeing what others have done. Don't forget to keep an eye open for all the other points of interest, for example blue plaques: the 'blind' Georgian house windows or the rings where the animals were tethered in the days of the cattle market. Most all enjoy walking around our town.

Angela As well as being the Treasurer, I am also responsible for organising the visits programme and I work alongside Peter Catton who arranges the talks. Our programme of visits and talks goes from March to October and we schedule five visits per year. Planning usually begins in November, when I draw up a list of possible places to visit. This is based on my own ideas, which sometimes stem from visits my husband and I have been on, suggestions from members of the committee and to a lesser extent, from members. I also pick up ideas from items in the local press and I consult a list, which I have, of places we have visited previously, as we may want to revisit some of them. From this year's programme so far we have had to postpone the following visits, Monday 27th April the Spring Talk, Tuesday 19th May Leeds Discovery Centre, the visits from June onwards will be decided on when more information is given by the government. When planning the visits I try to select different days for them so that members who cannot go on certain days but can make others are able to attend, also I bear in mind the distance members will have to travel. All members are sent a programme of our visits at the beginning of the year and are requested to fill a form in to let me know which visits they are interested in. I send out details of a specific visit a couple of weeks beforehand and ask members if they wish to attend. All our visits take place during the day. We are given a guided tour of the property or facility and often provided with refreshments. Members usually make their own way, but if

anyone needs a lift, they can contact me by email or phone (number is on the back of the programme). Following the visit , a short account is sent to the Wetherby News and appears in the Clubs section. On average we have 15 to 20 members attending our visits, but it would be great if more members would attend. We receive many favourable comments from those who do, and I believe that we provide an interesting and varied programme. However, I am always happy to receive comments and ideas for future visits.

Victor I keep a lot of historical information about Wetherby. I hold the Historical Trust Photo Archive and use it to help produce our pamphlets. I also give talks about the history of Wetherby, some with slides. The guided tours we do of Wetherby are conducted by me, Roger our Chairman, Peter our Vice Chairman and Nic our planning person.

Hope you enjoyed reading just a little bit about the Committee, we do work hard for the Wetherby Civic Society and would be delighted to hear from you, our members.

On behalf of all the Committee, who are looking forward to getting back to our visits, talks and meetings soon.
Stay home, stay safe, take care and our Best Wishes to you all.

Jean Chapman

Secretary