

Otley Economic Bulletin

Issue 10, April 2010



www.otleychamber.co.uk

President: T Backhouse (01943 467927)

A periodic digest of news relating to economic activity within the business community in and around Otley brought to you by Otley Chamber of Trade:-

- **Bowling Green** – Otley Pub Club’s enquiries indicate that the stalling of work started last month is due to lack of priority on the owners part rather than any of the various rumours currently circulating relating to the buildings structure. JD Wetherspoon’s contractors, Sanderson declined to reply to an enquiry from the Chamber which sought to clarify. Work on site has recommenced and Wetherspoon now quote a revised opening date in June.
- **Easby’s of Yorkshire** – enhancing Otley’s reputation as a food town, the Pontefract based Easby’s, who retail only Yorkshire sourced, supplied or produced food, advise they have taken over the Boroughgate branch of Ainsley’s. As part of their rapidly expanding portfolio further recruitment is anticipated both at the Otley store and in the expansion and development of the company’s 9 existing outlets
- **Esta** – always welcome, more quality has arrived in Market Street. Having previously worked for her husband’s construction company, Pudsey based Liz Le Tissier has established her own business selling mostly cushions and bean bags and also bedding and throws
- **Fleece** – an application has been made by Punch Partnership for Planning and Listed Building Consent at their Westgate pub to carry out alterations including forming 7 lettable rooms and single storey side extension, new external door and external staircase, raised decked area to garden to rear and external drinking area to front of public house
- **Housing schemes** – applications at two locations have been made to Leeds City Council, firstly for permission to demolish the Tannery, Leeds Road then develop 12 houses with associated road and landscaping and also the conversion of farm buildings into 3 dwellings at Throstle Nest Farm, Weston Lane
- **Karen’s Café** – announce their proposed opening in April at the currently empty former Playhard Sports Tours premises on Westgate. Otley agent **Parkes & Co** acted. More good news for the rejuvenation of Westgate in that the adjacent arch workshop/retail premises have been refurbished and are now offered to let on a new lease without premium by Leeds based business transfer agents Ernest Wilson
- **Odonata** – opening 1st April, the former Runner Bean premises in Market Street have been transformed by local artists Jenny Gregory and Mary Cormican into a gallery selling a plethora of gifts and art from handmade glassware and silver jewellery to beading and cards, Fair Trade goods. Exhibitions, demonstrations and classes will follow

- **Otley Chamber of Trade** - the March AGM thanked outgoing President Christopher Little for his contribution during his two years of service and duly welcomed his replacement, Trevor Backhouse, for his third period of office as President
- **OCT Social evening** – after an enjoyable evening of studiously considered dominoes and, frankly, erratically thrown darts at the plush Otley Cricket Club venue, the Rotary Club of Otley emerged as narrow victors over Otley Chamber of Trade to regain the revitalized Winpenny Trophy
- **OCT Social evening** – Chamber members, partners, guests and anyone interested in joining the Chamber are invited to the Mezedes Greek Banquet at the Dales Café on Wednesday 21st April, 7.00pm. A variety of courses of authentic Greek cuisine costs £17.95. Please confirm your attendance to Trevor Backhouse (01943 467927) as space is limited to 40 covers. Please don't smash the plates
- **Original Factory Shop** – shop fitting work on the former Netto premises on Crossgate is progressing rapidly. Expect the shelves to be installed and start filling by mid-April
- **PACT** - in recent weeks windows/glass doors have been maliciously smashed at a kebab take away, newsagent, Indian restaurant, household/outdoor store, two banks and a gift shop. OCT has since made representations to and met with the police accordingly. If your business has anything to say about policing matters around Otley the next PACT (police and community together) liaison meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8th April, 7pm at the Civic Centre. Other than the Chamber representative no Otley businesses took the opportunity to attend and represent their views at the previous meeting
- **Ryanair** – from March 23rd the Irish budget airline commenced services from Leeds Bradford International Airport to and from 17 new destinations
- **St Michaels Hospice** – the charity shop on the corner of Market Place and Boroughgate has closed, advising a refurbishment/re-launch as a charity bookshop in early April. A total of 10 shop units in Otley are currently let to 9 charitable organizations
- **Unemployment** – the number of claimants in Otley & Yeadon, previously standing at 434 in January, rose slightly to 439 during February, some 77% of whom are male. Leeds as a whole contradicted the national downward trend, rising from February's figure of 25,085 to 25,482 (source: Leeds City Council)
- **Wharfedale Angling Classics** - have moved to larger premises within Kirkgate Arcade, swapping places with the **Get Ya Hair Cut** hairdressing salon
- **Woolpack** - having recently been under offer and Leeds based commercial agents, Colliers turning away new requests for viewings during early March, the disposal of the freehold interest is now advised as being 'on hold'. The proposed user of the interested purchaser is not known, the agents declining the Chambers request for advice

If you have any interesting economic news, large or small (expansions or contractions, achievements, announcements, minor victories or anecdotes) or would like any rumour or concern investigating, please email wilkinson_tim@sky.com and Otley Chamber of Trade will do our best..

This Bulletin is produced after reasonable direct research from a number of reliable sources Accordingly, this information is offered in good faith and believed to be accurate and authentic. If in doubt readers may like to rely on their own investigations.

Previous editions are available by visiting the Otley Chamber of Trade website www.otleychamber.co.uk