

Otley Economic Bulletin

The newsletter of the Otley Chamber of Trade

Issue 22, April 2011



www.otleychamber.co.uk

President: Brian King

c/o 34 Westgate, Otley

Otley Chamber of Trade is a non-political, independent, not for profit body of volunteers who seek to represent and assist the town's business community and promote the town. This Bulletin is a monthly summary of local economic news relating to Otley and its business activity:-

- **J N Barber** – a welcome return to Westgate's renowned cigar, tobacco and gentlemen's gift shop which has returned to membership of the Chamber
- **Beech Hill Garage** - more good news in that the Ashfield Works, Westgate motor vehicle service and repairs garage has joined the Chamber. Contact John and Stephen Northage 01943 461162
- **Craft Collective** – welcome also to Jeni Pickard of the Wesley Street, not-for-profit craft and artistic collective on her joining of Otley Chamber. Contact thecraftcollective@hotmail.co.uk 07577622405
- **Disposable income** – the average British take home salary is now £20149. When adjusted for inflation this is down £1088pa on two years ago, 5% less than the middle of the recession (source: BBC). With inflation above Bank of England target the consumer is being squeezed from both sides
- **Douglas Tonks Ltd** – the Chamber welcomes another new member in Douglas Tonks Ltd, specialist payroll services and HR advice, of PO Box 160, Otley. Contact Peter Moore 01943 465146
- **Fleece PH** – WharfeBank Brewery's flagship pub has reopened after a £400,000 refit and very fine it looks too. The Pool based brewery's own outlet offers a large range of their own range of beers plus lunchtime and evening food. The renovated beer garden is a revelation and the second tier down to the river should be in shape by Easter
- **Grace** - welcome also to another new member of the Chamber, Westgate based baby and childrens' wear, toys and Fair Trade and organic babywear and toys retailer. Contact Esther Angus 01943 468815
- **Horse & Farrier PH** - new owners, independent real ale retailers, Knaresborough based Market Town Taverns, advises that the 15th pub in their tie-free estate will be reopen around Easter and will trade under the new name which intends to retain the pub's agricultural theme, previously and most recently its original Three Horseshoes and once briefly called the Lix. Phase 2 of the Bridge Street pub, will consider reinstating the 4 B&B rooms and an upstairs function room during 2012
- **Inflation** – nationally, the Consumer Price Index measure again rose last month to 4.4%. Retailers are charging more for domestic fuel (particularly gas), clothing and footwear. However, retailers have been charging 1.1% less for alcoholic drinks and tobacco, especially spirits. The European average was 2.8% (Source: ONS)

- **Laverton Securities** – thanks to the sixth recruit this month the Boroughgate based property developer and investor for joining the Chamber and thus helping to promote the town. Contact Ron Brassington 01943 854083
- **Leeds Bradford International Airport** – Exeter based FlyBe announce the termination of their service to Gatwick by the end of March citing increased landing charges for smaller regional aircraft. This leaves no air route between West Yorkshire and London although LBIA are prospecting for a replacement carrier
- **Massingberd** – the temporarily fenced off site on the Leeds Road entrance to the town where once proudly stood a prestige VW and Audi car showroom remains derelict whilst a planning application for 14 houses seeks an application for extension of time from Leeds City Council. Otley Chamber would like to see the site levelled, cleared and used as a temporary car park in the meantime
- **OCT AGM** – the well attended meeting extended its thanks to outgoing President Trevor Backhouse and welcomed new boy Brian King, whose intentions are listed in the Presidents Report at the end of this Bulletin. Accounts, presented by Treasurer David Eadon of accountants **BFE Brays**, showed that whilst the Chamber is comfortably solvent money invested in the town last year does need replenishing, the principle source of funding being membership subscriptions
- **OCT** – printing costs for recent editions of the *Otley Economic Bulletin* have been offset by modest adverts which, whilst gratefully received, have proved laborious to collect. If your business would like to sponsor a whole edition please contact us and we can explain further
- **Otley Antiques** – are to begin trading from Clapgate selling a wide variety of antiques and collectables including pottery, glass jewellery advertising and pictures of Otley's past. Space can be rented from just £3 per week with no commission. Pop in, call 07582349882 or email otleyantiques@yahoo.co.uk
- **Otley Pub Club** – membership of the forum for pub goers, owners, managers and general enthusiasts of Otley's pub heritage currently stands at 95 (the most distant being one in South Africa) and is set to grow with the launch of new publicity material. Visit <http://otleypubclub.co.uk>
- **Otley Shop Heroes** – Otley Chamber in connection with Otley Town Council Tourism Sub-Committee is producing a series of features on a dozen or so of our more characterful destination shops and businesses around the town and hopefully a trail connecting them up can be put together. The first of these, **Geo. Middlemiss** has appeared in OTC's *Otley Matters* magazine and on OCT's website front page with perhaps other applications to follow
- **The Payments Council** - will be closing the Cheque Guarantee Card Scheme on 30th June 2011. Cheques can still be used after this date but will not be guaranteed. More info at www.paymentscouncil.org.uk
- **Royal Wedding** – to cheer up the town and enter into the national celebrations Otley Chamber of Trade, in collaboration with Otley Town Council, is making available 100 Union Jacks on short jack staff flagpoles. These are suitable for installation in the Christmas Tree brackets around the town. No charge is intended but contributions will help towards future projects
- **Smashed windows** – the Chamber has raised concerns with Inspector Coldwell, West Yorkshire Police, regarding the recent spate of smashed shop windows. A similar spate of vandalism was experienced in March 2010. The Chamber understands two arrests have been made
- **Unemployment** – The national news gives confused messages about rising unemployment yet reducing Jobseekers Allowance claimant figures. In Otley & Yeadon Ward January 2011's figure

of 395 'on the dole' fell to 379 in February 2011, only one person more than in the corresponding month in 2009. Conversely, last year February's figure stood much higher at 439.

- **Wild Thing** - the women's clothes shop now trading from the former Wades travel agent is open and trading. After a break, proprietor Dianne Houghton has returned to Otley where she formerly traded from a business of the same name in Newmarket. A welcome lick of paint has cheered the shop front up too
- **WharfeBank Brewery** – a busy time, having successfully opened the Fleece and brewed their 100th beer, the mind-blowing 'C', the Pool Road brewery is happy to offer their premises for tours/events and as a meeting venue for community groups etc. Contact Martin Kellaway 0113 2842392 and visit www.wharfebankbrewery.co.uk

Presidents Report

It's an honour to take over the Presidency from Trevor Backhouse and his are indeed large and shiny shoes to fill

I'm pleased to say Trevor will remain very much involved and his **Patisserie Viennoise** shop at 34 Westgate will still act as the Chambers postal address

I'm always happy to hear suggestions and ways we can improve business in our town so please let me know your thoughts and concerns. I prefer to chat rather than type so my Vice President for the year, Tim Wilkinson, will act as my 'postbox' for anything electronic you might like to e-mail me, address as below

Otley has always been good to me so throughout my year I'll do my best for the Chamber and its work to promote the businesses within the town and hope to be able to count on your support as well as that of the Chamber's established executive group who soldier away on running the Chamber and working on projects on the town's behalf

During the year ahead my intention is to continue Trevor's progress with particular focus on events at the end of the year

I propose that the Chamber's summer social event be a smart suit and posh frock 'do', perhaps at the golf club. I intend reinstating a spider hunt around participating shops in the town for Hallow'een. The Chamber will take part in some of the various festivals and events through the summer with funds from these occasions all helping to sponsor a repeat and expansion of the Light Up Otley display of Christmas trees and lights

The successful Good Service Award will be repeated and the 'Shop Local Otley Prospers' campaign continued with the aim of encouraging shoppers to try around Otley before looking elsewhere

I also hope to start a dialogue with the charity shops, many of which occupy prominent locations around town, but which I feel are not fully integrated into the business community of the town

Please wish me luck and, as my favourite expression goes, 'never give up'

Brian King, President

If your business has 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.

Although by no means comprehensive, this newsletter is produced after reasonable direct research from a number of reliable sources and 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