

Otley Economic Bulletin

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OTLEY CHAMBER

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A periodic round up of bite sized morsels of economic news relating to the business community in and around Otley, brought to you by Otley Chamber of Trade:-

- **Bowling Green PH** – after several false starts, refitting work has finally started. Specialists in leisure premises work, Glasshoughton based Sanderson Contracts have erected a site perimeter fence and scaffolding and begun internal clearance. An opening date of April 2010 is advertised
- **Business Link Yorkshire** – offer an extensive programme of free business start up and improvement seminars and presentations at a range of locations around Yorkshire this spring. Visit www.businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk/events for details
- **Cutting House** - OCT welcomes the well established Market Place based hairdressing and nail services business to membership of the Chamber
- **The Edge** – another refurbishment of the premises at 6 Bondgate is complete and the women's clothing, shoes and handbags shop has reopened under the management of Guiseley based Lauren and Pat
- **Empty premises** – retail floorspace empty in Otley decreased this month by a further 568sqm/6118 sqft with the letting of the former Netto (see below)
- **GPG Accounting Services Ltd** – OCT welcomes the financial advice business to membership of the Chamber. GPG provide accountancy and taxation advice for self-employed and small businesses and assist with self-assessment from their second floor offices at 44 Kirkgate
- **Kirkgate parking** – Leeds City Council Traffic Engineering West (0113 395 1356) propose alterations to ease congestion on market days. Two disabled spaces are to be removed from outside the British Heart Foundation and reallocated adjacent to the Red Lion and Whitakers pubs. The five 2 hour disabled spaces further along Kirkgate will be suspended on market days to allow space for vehicles approaching the traffic lights. The kerbside outside the Parish Church and on both sides from the Heart Foundation towards the traffic lights are to be designated 'no waiting at any time'
- **Original Factory Shop** – the Burnley based retailer is set to add the former Netto premises in Crossgate to its rapidly expanding chain of 130 stores nationwide. Contracts assigning Netto's interest to the new tenant are due to be exchanged imminently and a range of management and sales assistant positions are currently advertised on the OFS website

OFS explain that: "much of what we sell is either branded or was originally made for other high street stores and supermarkets. We offer smaller communities a department store that would not normally trade in small towns".

- **Otley Chamber of Trade** – invoices for 2010 have been despatched and a good proportion of membership fees already received by return. Don't delay though... The Chamber continues to seek to strengthen by recruiting new members from the Otley business community
- **Play Time** – Horsforth based Robert and Dana Thompson have taken over the Kirkgate Arcade musical instrument specialist. Emphasis will be on guitar with new and used instrument sales, repairs and guitar, bass and beginner level piano tuition
- **Police And Communities Together** - the Leeds North West Outer Neighbourhood Policing Team are seeking feedback from people who live, work and visit the area to help improve the service they offer. Businesses, community groups and residents alike are invited to attend their PACT public meetings, make their views known and thereby influence policing strategy

Meetings local to Otley are scheduled for Thursday 11th February and 8th April at Room 2, Civic Centre, Cross Green at 7.00pm. Further meetings will then be on the second Wednesday of June, August, October and December in the Main Hall, Community Centre, Cross Green

- **Pilkingtons** – a planning application for change of use of the former newsagents on Gay Lane from retail to financial services has been submitted to Leeds City Council
- **Sainsbury's** - Mick Hepworth has succeeded Jamie Baker as Store Manager
- **Santander** - the Bradford & Bingley is no more. Rebranding of the bank, now merged into the Spanish owned Santander Group, is complete after the replacement of corporate signage on Kirkgate
- **Street Clutter** – Otley Chamber of Trade's survey of duplicated and redundant street signage has been passed on, via Otley Town Council, to Leeds City Council Highways Dept who have declared their support to the initiative and have appointed a LCC officer to progress
- **Unemployment** – the number of claimants in Otley & Yeadon reduced by 4 people to a December total of 416. Citywide the figure increased from 23764 to 24047 reversing two months of decreases (source: Leeds City Council Economic Development Unit)
- **The Wharf** – the now Shipley based contemporary jewellers continues to expand from its original Otley shop, soon to add to its six branches around Yorkshire with a seventh in Halifax

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