

Otley Economic Bulletin

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OTLEY CHAMBER

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A periodic round up of snippets of economic news relating to businesses in and around Otley, brought to you by Otley Chamber of Trade:-

- **Bowling Green** - Some activity on the site During December with asbestos survey/removal and media attention drawn to the continued neglect by the appearance of an anonymous critical banner. Pub operator JD Wetherspoon has claimed it will open 250 pubs over the next five years having already announced it would open 40 new pubs by the middle of next summer. These will be located across the UK, and their list included their Otley site. We have, of course, heard this before.
- **Café Ravello** – under the new management of Joy Bielby, Café Ravello has succeeded Java Café in Kirkgate Arcade, serving homemade food and delicatessen. Most of the staff have stayed with the addition of one more full time employee
- **Cross Pipes** – after a brief closure, Westgate’s Admiral Taverns owned historical pub has reopened
- **Empty premises** – another good month of new arrivals has seen the number of vacant shops in Otley centre diminish markedly. Only 18 shops remain dark (notably in clusters at Manor Square/Clapgate and Bay Horse Yard), three pubs (Bowling Green, Woolpack and Yeoman) and one restaurant (Courtneys)
- **Fusion Exchange** – have added a second branch to their Skipton operation, dealing in electronics, electricals, computers, mobile phone and computer games from the former Summer Rain shop in Market Street
- **Fleece** – after an 11 month hiatus, Westgate’s Punch Taverns `owned landmark pub has reopened under interim management
- **Gift Gallery** – has opened in the former Nails & Tan, New Inn Court. Otley based Nicola and Paul offer a range of candle related gifts
- **ITV** – has announced a £5m investment into their Kirkstall Road studios, ensuring its new High Definition production of Emmerdale will remain in West Yorkshire. One of these days ‘Hotton’ will find a way of getting some spin off value... Any ideas welcome

- **OCT** - the 'Light Up Otley' initiative encouraging as many shop and office frontages as possible to decorate their windows with decorative lights during December to supplement and enhance the Councils illuminations has proved a success and the Chamber trusts that 2010 will be an improvement still
- **Rhythm & Booze** – operating across Yorkshire and Humberside, the Barnsley based chain have reopened the Kirkgate off licence formerly trading as Thresher
- **Scams** - RBS Streamline caution that “*a number of our merchants have received calls instructing them to undertake refunds through their terminals and/or to call an alternative number and work through a refund process. Please do not act on any of these requests as they are fraudulent*”
- **SSAFA Forces Help** – the 100 years old Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association launched their comforts for troops appeal Otley branch with the announcement that the target for the contents of 100 shoeboxes had already been exceeded by donations from individuals and businesses from the Otley area. Donations of items can be left at Dowgill House, Easy Location Ltd, Gay Lane Fisheries, Suburban Style Bar or by contacting Peter Jackson who will collect
- **Suburban Style Bar Company Limited** - Cal Management has acquired 44 community pubs across Yorkshire and the West Midlands from administrators Zolfo Cooper including nine former managed Suburban Style pubs. The original trading name of Suburban Style Bar will remain
- **Swing Out Sister** – Alwoodley based Lynne Connolly has brought her vintage clothes collection the former Otley Mobile Phone Co kiosk in Orchard Gate to sell ladies vintage and new clothing
- **Unemployment** – the trend for unemployment benefit claimants in Otley & Yeadon Ward continues to gradually rise, from October's total of 413 to 420 in November. Citywide the figure again fell from 23990 to 23764 (source: Leeds City Council Economic Development Unit)
- **Wardrobe** – despite having been boarded out of their shop the business remains trading from home *pro tem*
- **Yorkshire Soap Company** – Warren would like to express his thanks and appreciation to the Otley community for their support during his early months of trading. The second outlet, following on from their Hebden Bridge shop, has far exceeded expectations and necessitated the taking on of an assistant

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 to wilkinson_tim@sky.com and Otley Chamber of Trade will do our best.

Produced after reasonable direct research from a number of reliable sources, 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 on the Otley Chamber of Trade website
www.otleychamber.co.uk