

Otley Economic Bulletin

The newsletter of Otley Chamber of Trade

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www.otleychamber.co.uk

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

- **Age UK** – following the merger of the Age Concern and Help The Aged charities, the Boroughgate shop is now rebranded as Age UK
- **Book House** - more welcome news for Bay Horse Court as the former Something Special gift shop has been refurbished and opened by Rachel Michael as a book exchange, buying, selling and exchanging paperback books
- **Boque Petit** – Mexican food returns to Otley as Newmarket's deli style sandwich shop announces an interesting new venture, extending their daytime hours to open on Tuesday to Saturday evenings as Gringo's, offering a variety of Mexican food to take away
- **Bowling Green PH** – the opening date of JD Wetherspoon's nearly refurbished pub is believed to be now aiming at Friday 9th July. Works are nearing completion and site perimeter fencing is now removed to reveal a very smart façade, hard landscaping and smart corporate signage
- **Christmas Trees** – the Chamber is considering a project to reintroduce the small Christmas trees that once upon a time enticed customers to our town centre, and still do so impressively in Skipton. There are 99 businesses around Otley that still have brackets above their shop fronts. This would take no little organising so OTC would be interested to hear if your business would support the project. Please let us know
- **Cross Pipes PH** – the Westgate pub has undergone an internal refit
- **Glide + Slide** – Station Road's specialist for all things skiing, snowboarding, hiking and sailing is undergoing a substantial internal refit to their boot racks and changing rooms

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 36-38 MARKET PLACE

- **OCT** – as the calendar has ticked past 1st June, membership for the remainder of 2010 is now available at a discount. Active new members are always welcome, alternatively businesses who feel willing to contribute to the running costs of the Chamber by the gesture of membership can subscribe for only £25
- **OCT** – the next general meeting of the Chamber is Tuesday 20th July 2010, 6.30pm and features charismatic guest speaker, Rick Armstrong. Rick has a background in advertising, management consultancy, training and marketing, is on the regional Director Team for BNI and is a business advisor to charities. An inspirational speaker on topics such as motivation and leadership, networking, referral skills and presentation skills. Members, potential members and all those generally interested in the wellbeing of Otley are welcome
- **OEB** – if you value receiving the Chambers newsletter, please feel free to support the costs of producing it with a business card size advert available at only £5 per issue. Please arrange this direct with the Chamber member who passes on your OEB paper copy or by email to wilkinson_tim@sky.com
- **Orion** – site groundworks have finally begun on the Prince Henry's Court housing development adjacent to Prince Henry's School
- **Otley Street Festival** – will return bigger and better around Newmarket, Market Street and Market Square on 18th July from 10am – 8pm. Featured are stilt walkers, living statue, face painting, Punch & Judy, Jolly Jivers, belly dancing, bouncy castle and music from, amongst others, Above Average Weight Band, Rough & Ready Boys, Hey Doris and 28. www.otleystreetfestival.wordpress.com
- **Phonographic Performance Limited** – commercial premises that play copyrighted recorded music to their customers (eg. pubs, cafes, shops etc) should have a license to do so from PPL (and also one from the Performing Rights Society). PPL raised its tariffs in 2005 but in February a Copyright Tribunal held they had been set too high and licence holders may now be entitled to a refund. www.ppluk.com



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- **Street notices** –the laminated A4 notices for planning application and highway closures, attached to lamp posts etc by Leeds city Council, accumulate over the months, become tatty and detract from the town’s appearance. As scruffy streets are never good for business, in the absence of any procedure for taking them down again, the Chambers volunteer recently collected 27 time expired notices, cable ties and ragged string from around our conservation area, in addition to the 30 harvested last October, a total of 38 sq ft
- **Stuart Dickinson Watchmaker** - announces his relocation in September from current premises in Newmarket to Kirkgate Arcade
- **Unemployment** – for the second successive month the unemployment claimant figure for Otley Ward has fallen significantly, reducing by 5% from Aprils 400 (itself a massive 9.2% reduction from 433 in March) to 380 in May. Otley’s Estimated Claimant Proportion has fallen from 3% at the start of the year to only 2.6% in May (source: Leeds City Council)
- **Visa** - have introduced an additional 1p per transaction charge to their ‘acquiring banks’ who will, no doubt, be passing this on to merchants who take payments via Delta and Electron cards, plus an additional 0.8% increase when merchants take payments via international credit cards
- **WC provision** – Otley Town Council does its best with Orchard Gate and Wharfemeadows Park and Leeds City Council has facilities at the library, but the shortage of publicly accessible WCs has long been identified as a factor that dissuades tourists and visitors from returning to Otley. **The Junction PH**, since followed by **Kirkgate Arcade**, has volunteered to offer their facilities for public use – can your business rise to the challenge in resolving this problem for the town?

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Liz Le Tissier

- **Wedding Belles of Otley** - the bridal boutique based in New Inn Court continues to thrive and is very excited to announce that it has been selected as the official West Yorkshire stockist of designer bridal label Alan Hannah. The new range of couture wedding dresses is expected to be in store by early July.
- **Wharfedale Electrical Supplies Ltd** – OCT is delighted that this new electrical factor, much needed service to Otley, has affirmed its commitment to the town by having immediately taken out membership of the Chamber
- **Wharfedale General Hospital** – planning and Listed Building applications have been made to Leeds City Council by national public housing and regeneration body the Homes And Communities Agency for the ‘redevelopment of former Wharfedale Hospital, including part demolition and conversion of buildings to form 22 flats and 14 houses and erect 36 new houses, with associated car parking and landscaping’
- **Woolpack PH** – a step towards another of our long empty, historic buildings being brought back into beneficial occupation as the planning application for change of use and alterations of Public House to an art studio and arts education centre with a 2 bedroom first floor flat has received approval

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

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