

# Otley Economic Bulletin

The newsletter of Otley Chamber of Trade

Issue 25, July 2011



[www.otleychamber.co.uk](http://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:-

**BEKS Electrical** – Kirkgate's retailer of electrical and DIY and last year's Good Service Award winners has also joined the Chamber. Contact Paul Linsley 01943 462468

**Bradford Road** – the Chamber has intervened in the temporary signage that suggested the centre of Otley was closed rather than merely subject to suggested diversion to get it changed

**Club Energy** – with club membership numbers in rude health the 700 + strong Boroughgate health facility propose a board of affiliate businesses who can co-operate to offer a discount to club members. They already have a number of well know local participants. For details contact Director Pat Cowdell 01943 468882 [info@club-energy.co.uk](mailto:info@club-energy.co.uk) Welcome also to the club on their signing up for membership of Otley Chamber

**Craftsman Tools** – continues to engineer its way to success by growing on a number of levels. The company has recently expanded into Latin American markets following a successful market visit to Brazil and Argentina. Planning permission to extend the current building has also been granted with an extra 5000 sqft to be added to the current shopfloor. Building work is due to commence in the Autumn. The company is also actively seeking experienced machine operators to add to their ever-growing number of employees

**Dale Eddison** – the award winning commercial agent has made short work of letting the former Morsino Wine warehouse on Station Road to a carpet warehouse operator

**Dale Eddison** – more success having also successfully acted in the sale of the freehold of 12 Manor Square. The existing tenant, **Solo** is unaffected. Improvement work is planned on the upper flats

**Ex- Saver Fashion Nett** – in Market Street has now been let

**Glide + Slide Ltd** – the Chamber welcomes another new member as Station Road's ski, snowboard and dinghy sailing equipment specialist have signed up. Contact J Worrall 01943 461136 [www.glideslide.co.uk](http://www.glideslide.co.uk)



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**Improvements** – the Chamber welcomes any improvements to premises to help smarten up the appearance of the businesses around town so is pleased to observe that **Esquire et Cie** has had a lick of paint, **Wharfe View Newsagents** have removed their derelict canopy, **Ted Smith** beds have had an internal refit and **Yorkshire Bank** a new fascia sign. **The Woolpack**, approaching readiness as a community arts facility, boasts a smart new coat of white paint with black perimeter railings, a massive improvement on the shabby façade and concrete blocks that surrounded it this time last year. **Red Pepper** has produced a magnificent floral effort at their end of Newmarket. Well done to all

**Inflation** – CPI annual inflation, the Government’s target measure being 2%, maintained its April rate of 4.5% in May. As ever, higher food and fuel prices are causing the pain. With average salaries increasing at only 2.3% the squeeze on retailers continues (Source: ONS)

**Johnsons Cleaners** – another new member has joined the Chamber in the Kirkgate dry cleaner and laundry. Contact Rachel Goodall 01943 463941

**Mimmo’s** – downstairs in the Westgate Arcade is now open and trading during the day and evening as an Italian family restaurant and bar

**OCT advertising** – if your business would like to sponsor the printing costs of a whole edition of the *Otley Economic Bulletin* please let us know and we can explain further. Thanks to **Sentient** of Wharfebank Business Centre for sponsoring this issue

**OCT Antiques Fair** – promoted by OCT, the Chambers spring Antiques Fair at the Courthouse again did well with over 350 attendees despite the miserable weather. The financial outcome was a worthwhile profit to add to the Light Up Otley fighting fund

**OCT Autumn Ball** – to give the event its working title, will be on 17<sup>th</sup> September in the highly civilised surroundings of Otley Golf Club. 12 tables of 8 will be available at £25 per head to include a 3 course meal and music. Posh frock and best suits. Any surplus proceeds will go towards the Chambers ‘Light Up Otley For Christmas’ campaign. Please contact Alan Sowden for the few remaining tickets

**OCT Light Up Otley** – a reminder that reservations can still be made for the Chamber’s fundraising curry night at Newmarket’s **Red Pepper** restaurant on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, sittings at 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Please call Helen Wilkinson at **Dowgill House** 01943 850836. The cost is £10 from which the restaurant generously promise a substantial return to the Chambers Light Up Otley For Christmas campaign from the evenings takings if we can fill both 6.30pm and 8.30pm sittings

**OCT Light Up Otley** – fundraising continues with generous donations of £500 from **Kirkgate Arcade**, their fee for recent TV filming access, and £500 from **Rotary Club of Otley**

**OCT Membership** – now well in excess of 100 businesses and approaching a record level, attached to this months issue is a list of members. Please let us know any errata. Thanks to everyone for their support

**OCT next general meeting** - will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 6.30pm, Leeds City College, Charles Street. A speaker from Apex Radio (equipment suppliers for the now lapsed Otley Shop Watch scheme) is planned. The meeting is the closing date for candidates wishing to be nominated and seconded for the post of Junior Vice President (i.e. President in waiting for 2013). As usual, all are welcome



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**OCT Otley Carnival** – already sponsoring the Carnival Queen and advertising in the programme, the Chamber was pleased to increase its support with volunteers from **Appleby Cards, Dowgill House** and **Sowdens** manning a Chamber of Trade stall showing a public face and fundraising for the Light Up Otley campaign with Splat The Rat and Key Safe. Lollies for prizes were kindly donated by the **Traditional Sweet Shop**

**OCT Summer Social** – the usual Grove Hill social club venue is booked for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Bar, buffet and live music with the popular return of Matt and Liz are promised and no doubt a raffle and auction

**Orchard Gate** – the larger kiosk is vacant and to let again via Ministar Services

**Otley Street Festival** - bigger and better than ever takes place along Newmarket, Market Street and Market Place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011 with family fun and a music stage. Keen to support the event and positive effect it has on Otley, the Chamber has agreed to sponsor the St Johns Ambulance provision. For details contact [cathdavies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cathdavies@yahoo.co.uk)

**Otley Town Council** – of the 15,000 ‘Otley Markey and Festival Town’ leaflets printed last month so far some 5,600 have been distributed to 61 tourist facing outlets across Yorkshire. Large numbers have been taken by Leeds TIC and also coach tour companies are being approached

**Patisserie Viennoise** – congratulations to past President Trevor Backhouse and his team as Westgate’s ‘Theatre of Confections’ celebrated their silver anniversary of business in Otley on 1<sup>st</sup> July

**Power cuts** – **Yorkshire Electrical Supplies** advises that a number of local businesses seemed to have suffered from their computers failing and even being wiped during recent power cuts and offer a number of anti surge 4, 6 and 8 gang sockets that would prevent that in the future

**Prima Blinds** – after 5 years of trading the Kirkgate Arcade blinds business has expanded into an adjacent unit, putting their success in no small part down to the support of their Otley customers, whom they would like to thank

**Rest Assured Homecare Services Ltd** – the Chamber is delighted to welcome the Boroughgate homecare agency as a new member. Manager Mrs A Dickinson can be contacted at 01943 466292 [www.restassuredhomecare.co.uk](http://www.restassuredhomecare.co.uk)

**Scam - Quality Foods Online**, also known as **DSM Media**, variously of Blackpool, Dublin and sometimes Amsterdam are on the prowl again, offering an innocent local restaurant and promising to produce 20000 menu leaflets free on the basis that they can sell advertising on it to local businesses. Members have had bad experiences in the past, last time they tried Otley around 2 years ago, as have others... [http://www.blogger.com/db4/company\\_id/9769/companyname/Quality-Food-Online.html](http://www.blogger.com/db4/company_id/9769/companyname/Quality-Food-Online.html)

**Unemployment** – Leeds City Council’s latest figures show unemployment benefit claimants in Otley & Yeadon ward now stand at 341 (240 males and 101 females) in May. This number shows a marked improvement on the worst total of this recession, 439 in February 2010



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## Presidents Report

Whilst writing this on the longest day of the year it may seem early in the summer to be thinking about the long, dark winter nights that slowly now approach but forward planning is everything in business

The unwelcome news, as reported in the *Wharfedale & Aireborough Observer*, that Leeds City Council will not be assisting Otley Town Council with their usual supplement to finance the towns municipal Christmas lights has set the town another challenge in these already challenging times

We are already fundraising to form a war chest to subsidise the cost of our own mini-tree and lights campaign to make it more affordable to more participating businesses. The project is planned to be more extensive than last years effort, to include a wider area and include other areas such as church yards. One day we hope to have built to the extent that our lights becomes a visitor attraction in itself, ambitious given where we started two years ago, but that's the intention

We have also been asked if the Chamber will assist the Council in finding willing beneficiaries and sponsors to make up their shortfall for the towns scheme due to the cuts imposed by Leeds City Council

These are unprecedented times so you might just find us knocking on your door to seek your assistance or support, maybe for a raffle or auction prize for one of our fundraising events. The Chamber volunteers who are trying to make this happen all have their own businesses to run as well so please give them your co-operation and do what you can to muck in and please come along to support the events

Businesses that would like to join in with the Chambers trees and lights scheme this year might like to start thinking about it sooner rather than later, especially if they 'need to ask Head Office'. Businesses that haven't got a bracket (which can double up as a flag holder on special occasions) but would like one should also let us know

I believe, and said so on the front page of the *Wharfedale Observer* recently, that the Chamber of Trade, with assistance from the town's shops and businesses can rally to this cause and save the day. Better still we can even have some fun with it and come out with a stronger, better connected business community

In the meantime, enjoy the summer in Otley!

Brian King  
President, Otley Chamber of Trade

*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](http://www.otleychamber.co.uk)



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