

Otley Chamber of Trade is a nonpolitical, independent, not for profit body of volunteers that seeks to represent and assist the local business community and promote the town. This Bulletin is a monthly summary of local economic news relating to Otley and its business activity:-

Bank notes - new £5 and £10 banknotes with a 'vertical' design will be issued by Ulster Bank. The more durable polymer notes will replace existing paper notes issued in Northern Ireland in 2019. The portrait, rather than landscape, notes will be legal tender across all of the UK once issued so might turn up in your till. Whilst only the Bank of England can issue bank notes in England and Wales, seven banks can do so across Scotland and Northern Ireland. Wallet manufacturers might like to think ahead...



Chamber next meeting - will be on 17th July at Falcon Social Club on Westgate, 5.30pm for 6pm start. Bar and free finger food will be available. Entry is free, available to anyone, business owner or not, and all views and opinions are welcome. Do come along and interact, it's very informal and nobody bites. The meeting will include a segment for the BID AGM

This months sponsor



Newstead & Walker
The Otley Law Firm

Tel: 01943 461414

www.newsteadwalker.co.uk

SAVE THE DATE

“Otley BID’s fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Chamber of Trade meeting on the 17th July 2018 at The Falcon Sports & Social Club on Westgate starting at 6pm.

We hope to see as many Otley BID businesses as possible attending the meeting where will be discussing what we have done during 2017/18 as well as our plans for a further 5 years in starting April 2019“

Craftsman Tools Ltd - has invested in a brand new state-of-the-art milling machine in the pursuit of further growth and increased output. The Matsuura MAM72-35V, a 32-pallet 5-axis CNC milling machine, was purchased following increased demand for the company's tool holders, which are used in the precision engineering industry



When fully installed, the new machine will enable continuous 'lights out' manufacturing, greatly improving efficiency and vastly reducing the time it takes to manufacture products that are shipped all over the world from the company's workshop in Otley

Cycle race questionnaire - June's edition contained a brief questionnaire aimed at gathering first hand information from the town's businesses on their perceived benefits or negative effect that events such as the Tour de Yorkshire have on the town, on the day and longer term. This would be kept in hand for future use in any contact with event organizers. Only 3 responses were received, two negative and one positive. This represents less than 1% of the towns 360/550 businesses (depending on how you count them), each of which got a Bulletin and so the chance to comment. With such a small and disappointing response the data gathered cannot be relied upon. Providing a voice for the town's businesses only works with your input, feedback and comments



Empty shops – there have been many attempts over recent years to convince the owners and the commercial agents representing them to allow access to the windows of empty shops so schools, community groups, event organizers etc could cheer them up by using them for displays or simply decorating with art. Some have co-operated although others haven't. Two empty premises in Orchard Gate have recently had their windows dressed by an innovative design to make them appear occupied



Gallows Hill – a planning application has been made to Leeds City Council for '3 industrial buildings containing 15 individual units at The Yard, Gallows Hill, Pool Road, Otley (18/01404/FU). The site, which is currently SK Thompson plant and haulage yard, is between the sewage works and allotments. The area has been crying out for such units with those recently developed near Pool already snapped up

Gifted Angel – the Newmarket hair salon is now divided into two independent businesses with the Newmarket part reverting to its former identity of Golden Scissors and the New Inn Court facing part remaining as Gifted Angel



ex-Home Comforts – Boroughgate – is now let. 'Paint your own pottery coming soon'. Yeadon agents Ackroyd Dent acted



Household finances – average basic pay increased by 2.5% in the year to April, down by 0.1% on the previous month, but 0.3% up on a year ago, again fractionally exceeding CPI inflation which is currently 2.4% (source: ONS)

Junction Inn - Tony Grey advises that he is due to retire in early July. Appropriately, for an ardent Castleford Tigers supporter, he will have been at the Bondgate hostelry for approaching 13 years, after which Tony's son, Robert will be taking the helm

The human charity fundraising machine continues to the end, striving to add to the £110,000 raised so far for charities and good causes by hosting a barbeque and raffle for St George's Crypt on July 4th (his last week), live music and passing the hat around. The Junction's Old Otlensians matchday celebration of bacon sandwiches and toasting their victory with 10 bottles of Prosecco raised £110 for Project 53, a charity who Hannah Cockcroft is patron of, towards the target of £1,000 for when the Paralympic multi gold medallist visits on Yorkshire Day

Otley Civic Centre – Leeds City Council has identified Mandale Homes as their preferred purchaser for the Otley Civic Centre, which has stood forlornly empty since 2010. The Stockton on Tees based housebuilder has proposals for conversion of the former Mechanics Institute on cross Green to 21 apartments, 7 of which will be 'affordable'. The sale to Mandale, who also demolished the former Tannery on Leeds Road to build out the Claro Mews housing development, is subject to grant of planning consent by Leeds City Council, which one suspects might not be too problematic

Otley Beer Festival - will be on 23 & 24th November 2018, Otley RUFC. To join in the fun and support an Otley institution sponsor a barrel (for £30) contact Andy Peckham andrewjohnpeckham@hotmail.co.uk 07837 155940



Organized by Otley RATS on behalf of Otley Parish Church

Otley Carnival - the overall window dressing competition, open to all shops in Otley town centre, was won this year by Oxfam. Of the 30 entries, the category winners were: Large Window - Otta's Leah, Medium Window - Courtyard Planters, Small Window - The Donkey Sanctuary For the Love of...



(Picture courtesy of Wharfedale & Aireborough Observer)



Otley Cycle Races – the 33rd edition of one of the country's most prestigious criterium (town centre) races will be on Wednesday 4th July. Affected roads are due to close around 5.15pm with the first race at 6pm. See <https://www.otleycycleraces.co.uk/>

Otley Food & Drink Festival – town events continue thick and fast with Sunday 15th July. Organised by Visit Otley and Otley Town Partnership, the festival will feature “a wonderful array of more than 50 stalls selling good quality, locally sourced products, as well as a full programme of events including a cookery theatre with demonstrations by local chefs from within Otley and Otley Farmers' Market

Throughout the day there will also be food and wine tastings, local breweries, live music, children's entertainment and much, much more”

Otley Economic Bulletin - somewhat short of Thomas Chippendale's 300 year birthday but this July edition marks the 9th anniversary of the first edition of the Otley Economic Bulletin, first issue being circulated round the town centre businesses of Otley in July 2009

Then printed onto A4 paper by photocopier and hand stapled together, amongst that first months news JD Wetherspoon advised that they intended renovation work to start in October 2009 on their boarded up Bowling Green pub, Woolworth on Kirkgate remained resolutely empty after their business collapsed nationally as did Bondgate's Woolpack pub (surrounded by ugly concrete blocks to prevent vehicle trespass). Travel agents, Waye & Son vacated their landmark Kirkgate/Bondgate corner and 20 other town centre shops stood empty

Unemployment across Otley and Yeadon Ward was then 389 people (compared to 125 now)

It was all a pretty gloomy prospect but, more happily, Café Café announced their imminent arrival on Newmarket. Other recent arrivals on the same street had been One Dental, Studio 7 and what would become Red Pepper, which took over the empty restaurant, previously Truffles. Wooletts opened in Kirkgate and Danish owned supermarket Netto relocated from Crossgate (a space soon filled by the Original Factory Shop) to the former Ford showroom on Cross Green

At the time the Chamber's 'office' comprised a telephone answering machine at the Courthouse. Having become glossy for edition 61 in July 2014, some 108 editions later the town's own Financial Times continues to be published free and distributed both electronically and by hand in the first week of the month, every month, having never missed a month

Otley Economic Bulletin sponsorship – thanks to Mercury Row based solicitors Newstead & Walker for again sponsoring this July edition. The Otley Law Firm is a regular supporter of the Bulletin



Newstead & Walker
The Otley Law Firm

If your business would like to sponsor an edition of the Otley Economic Bulletin this is available at £60. If you'd like to share an edition with another business for £30 each, please contact admin@otleychamber.co.uk with your logo(s)

Parkgate café – Bridge Avenue, next to Wharfemeadows Park, celebrated their first year under their current management of Mike and Christine Lunn – congratulations!

Retail sales - bounced back last month after the Beast from the East exacerbated the crisis facing the High Street. The Royal Wedding and good weather were credited as the main factors in reversing the slump with a 1.3% rise in sales volumes during May as shoppers spent more on food and household goods than predicted

Online retailers continued to take a bigger slice of spending, up from 16.1% last April to 17.3%, with both food and clothing stores achieving record online proportions (source: ONS)

Rose & Crown – the long serving management of Ian and Sue have departed and the pub currently stands in darkness. A board outside suggests the owners Enterprise Inns (or Ei as they now style themselves) are seeking new managers/tenants and, being part of the towns blanket listing of pubs under the Asset of Community Value legislation, its future as a pub is assured, for the time being at least

ex-Scope - a planning application for 'Change of use of shop (A1) to drinking establishment (A4)' at 12 Kirkgate, the former Scope charity shop, has been approved under delegated powers by Leeds City Council (seemingly on the basis that, although Listed and within the conservation Area, the building has been butchered already and no further harm could be done). Conversion work needs to start within 3 years and any operator would have to apply for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to allow the sale of alcohol and any other licensable activities

A second, alternative application is still running but for 'Proposed Change of Use of part retail unit with ancillary accommodation, to form reduced size ground floor retail unit and 2 no. apartments'

Unemployment – nationally the unemployment total fell again by another 38,000 now down to 1.42m in the 3 months to April 2018, a rate of 4.2% (source: ONS). Unemployment benefit claimants in Otley & Yeadon Ward in May stood at 125 (1%), down from Aprils 135 (source: Leeds CC)

Some 901,000 people were on zero-hours contracts in their main job, representing just 2.8% of all people in employment. The number of people classed as economically inactive, including students, those on long-term sick leave, taken early retirement or who have given up looking for work, fell by 72,000 to 8.6 million in the latest quarter, giving a rate of 21%, a record low

The claimant count, which includes people on Jobseeker's Allowance and the unemployment element of Universal Credit, also fell by 7,700 last month to 886,000

Actual employment increased by 146,000 in the quarter to April to 32.39 million, the highest figure since records began in 1971, giving a new record rate of 75.6%. Job vacancies available also increased by 2,000 to 818,000. The number of self-employed workers increased by 34,000 to 4.8 million (source: ONS)

Yorkshire Bank - the owner of Clydesdale Bank and Yorkshire Bank, CYBG, has agreed to buy Virgin Money for £1.7bn. Under the proposed deal all the group's retail customers will be moved to Virgin Money accounts over the next three years. The merged operation will be the UK's sixth-largest bank, with about six million customers. What this could mean for 'bricks and mortar' branches if the deal goes through (the more technology based Virgin has fewer branches, 74 compared to Clydesdale and Yorkshire's 169) isn't yet clear, but the announcement included the warning that 1,500 jobs are likely to go. Let's hope it's just a name change (source: BBC)

SAVE THE DATE

"Otley BID's fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Chamber of Trade meeting on the 17th July 2018 at The Falcon Sports & Social Club on Westgate starting at 6pm.

We hope to see as many Otley BID businesses as possible attending the meeting where will be discussing what we have done during 2017/18 as well as our plans for a further 5 years in starting April 2019"

ON 8TH OCTOBER OTLEY BUSINESSES HAVE TWO CHOICES



**TO
ENSURE
THAT
OTLEY...**

- ✓ **COMPETES WITH OTHER BID TOWNS AS LEEDS, BRADFORD ILKLEY**, HARROGATE**, SKIPTON*, KEIGHLEY, RIPON** & MORLEY****
- ✓ **IS LIT UP AT CHRISTMAS**
- ✓ **KEEPS FREE CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP**
- ✓ **KEEPS OUR BUSINESS AWARDS**
- ✓ **KEEPS PROMOTING TOURISM**
- ✓ **KEEPS OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR BUSINESS**
- ✓ **KEEPS SUBSIDISED BUSINESS TRAINING**
- ✓ **HAS MORE COACH VISITORS**

**2nd BID term **BIDs underway*



**AND
THERE
WILL
BE...**

- ✗ **LESS FLORAL DISPLAYS**
- ✗ **NO CHRISTMAS TREES**
- ✗ **NO FREE CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP**
- ✗ **NO BUSINESS AWARDS**
- ✗ **LESS FUNDING FOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS**
- ✗ **LESS TOURISM PROMOTIONS**
- ✗ **NO COLLABORATION WITH OTLEY ORGANISATIONS ON JOINT PROJECTS**
- ✗ **LESS COACH TRIPS VISITING THE TOWN**

FACT

51

**INITIATIVES HAVE
BEEN COMPLETED BY
OTLEY BID TO DATE**

Tel: 07481 891 686

Email info@otleybid.co.uk



Last month we were delighted to be able to show you how the last five years of the Otley Business Improvement District (BID) has made a difference to our town and its businesses. Our 5 year term will end in March 2019 which means that all Otley levy paying businesses will be asked to vote again on 8th October 2018 for the Otley Business Improvement District to continue.

Our hope is that you will agree with us and vote for a second five year term.

With the help of our levy paying businesses, we generate £375,000 over the 5 year period. On 8th October 2018 you will decide wither the BID will be renewed and how another £375,000 will be spent in our town.

Otley BID Ltd will, once again, be run by a voluntary board of directors drawn from people with the same business aspirations as you.

Plenty to lose – Don't forget if the BID does not continue, we will lose £375,000 of potential investment into the town!

Join us and together we will make a difference - **VOTE YES!**

WHAT IMPACT WILL YOUR VOTE HAVE?



VISIT OUR DROP-IN CLINICS:
MONDAY 10TH SEPT 8AM-11AM
WEDS 12TH SEPT 4PM-6PM
THURS 13TH SEPT 11AM-2PM
MARKET PLACE, OTLEY

Tel: 07481 891 686

Email info@otleybid.co.uk





Presidents Note

Dear all,

The Otley business in the 'hot seat' this month is Shoecraft of Otley, a very established business located in Orchard Gate

I would like to thank Alec for taking the time to chat with me. I enjoyed hearing about their unique journey. I look forward to continuing to work with Alec & Lorraine in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them continued success and a personal thanks for supporting and encouraging other businesses in the town

For anyone who is interested in sitting in the 'hot seat' with the President please do contact me, I would be very pleased to hear from you

Otley Chamber of Trade would also be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the Executive Committee as our Junior Vice President

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who provided our town with the recent wonderful and successful events to include Otley Show, Otley Carnival, the teams behind the Chippendale 300 and Otley Walking Festival. We really do have a truly remarkable town

On behalf of the Otley Chamber I would like invite you all to attend the next Chamber meeting on Tuesday 17th July at the Falcon Sports & Social club on Westgate, meet from 5.30pm with food provided by Sam from the Real Food Shop. Otley Chamber welcomes the Otley BID AGM to the meeting, to commence at 6pm

Presidents Q&A interview: Shoecraft of Otley

Q Please tell us about you and your business: Shoecraft of Otley, Orchard Gate, Otley

Alec & Lorraine Hird: The main business is shoe repairs and key cutting. We also engrave most items, supply trophies and awards. We sell all relevant shoe care products, fit watch batteries and straps and put batteries into key fobs. We also supply memorial signs, house

signs and plaques

When they are not in the shop you will find Alec on a golf course and Lorraine spending time with their 5 grandchildren (soon to be 6)

Q How long have you been here in Otley?

Alec & Lorraine Hird took over the business in March 2004

Q Where did you find the inspiration for your business idea?

Alec was expelled from school and needed to find a job quickly. He started working in the trade when he was 17 years old, working for a company called Mr Minute. Alec was promoted to area Manager at aged 23 and promoted further to Regional Manager. In 2003 Alec was offered redundancy as Timpson took over the business and could not offer him a comparable position. Alec had previously worked for Mr Minute in Boroughgate, Otley in the early 1980s and was always fond of Otley, he saw the business for sale in Otley and bought it in 2004. Alec & Lorraine commute from Shipley daily and report that they enjoy the journey to Otley

Q Please tell us what you do to promote your business

We always do a good job and word of mouth is our best promotion. We support all events in Otley town and we always try to never say "no", if we can not do a job we will refer on to others as we have a strong belief in this or we will order in for customers. We receive business from surrounding areas including Guiseley, Ilkley and Yeadon and even further, we have repeated customers in Guernsey

Q How does being a member of OCT help you?

Alec reports that he was encouraged to join the Chamber and was quick to respond. He reports that networking with other businesses is helpful and working as a team "we all tend to stick together. If I was not a member of the chamber of trade I would not have known people like Tim Wilkinson, Trevor Backhouse, Peter Heald and David Gagen"

Keeley Kear
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 investigation, 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



NEXT CHAMBER MEETING

EVERYONE WELCOME - member or not

Tuesday 17th July 2018

6:00 pm at the

The Falcon Sports & Social Club

1 Westgate, Otley LS21 3AT

Open networking with
food & drinks from 5:30pm