

Otley Economic Bulletin

Issue 12, June 2010



www.otleychamber.co.uk

President: Trevor Backhouse (01943 467927)

A periodic digest of economic news relating to the business community in and around Otley, brought to you by Otley Chamber of Trade:-

- **A-Boards** – beware, Leeds City Council is in the midst of a purge against A-Boards displayed in the public highway and may well prosecute, especially if causing a restriction to pavement width
- **Netto** – subject to approval from the Office of Fair Trading later this summer, Asda has announced their intention to take over the Danish based budget supermarket, Netto from parent company Dansk Supermarked A/S, part of the behemoth Maersk transport empire. Asda claim they will employ up to twice as many staff in each store after conversion to the Asda brand, scheduled for Summer 2011
- **Cherished** – having just celebrated their third anniversary the Market Street cards gifts and fine art shop would like to thank their customers for their continued success
- **Essentials** – retirement beckons for the Mercury Row food and household shop, now cleared out. OCT suspects the unit wont be empty for long
- **General Election** – although a non-political organization, Otley Chamber congratulates Greg Mulholland, returned as MP for Leeds NW with an increased majority of 9,103. As a Liberal Democrat and therefore a member of the coalition government, this is the first time since 2005 that Otley has an MP within the government, rather than in opposition
- **Giantsale.co.uk** –internet bedroom furniture retailer, Giantsale has expanded their debut showroom, on Kirkgate, onto the first and second floors and now announce expansion to branches in Harrogate and York
- **George's Used Goodies** – collectables and antiques is now open and trading in Kirkgate Arcade
- **Karen's Café** – some welcome new activity along Westgate with the arrival of a new café.
(nb. there are currently at least 17 privately operated cafes and sandwich shops operating in and around Otley town centre; may their tea pots all runneth over)
- **Mirror Image** – the painting, picture framers and mirror retailers have removed from their premises in Kirkgate and the building is under refurbishment
- **Newmarket Street Festival** – Sunday 18th July will see the return of the street entertainment, music and stalls along Newmarket, a welcome addition to the towns programme of summer events
- **OCT** – July's Chamber meeting on 20th July 2010, Charles Street, features a presentation by business guru Rick Armstrong, founder of Mentor and Fisher King Publishing, director of IQ Property Investments and co-author of *The Little Book of Positive Thoughts* and *The Little Book of Visualisation*. 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, Rick advises nationally and internationally mainly on the subject of business creation with particular emphasis on start-ups and SME's. Chamber members and prospective members alike are welcome for 6.30pm prompt
- **OCT** – the next social evening is planned at Otley's premier brasserie, Korks on Tuesday 22nd June, 6.30 for 7pm. Members and prospective members and partners are all welcome but numbers are limited so please confirm your attendance to Trevor Backhouse

- **OCT** – the Chamber’s annual Summer Social is still at the planning stage but shaping up towards the Grove Hill Social Club on Tuesday 13th July 2010, 7 pm for 7.30pm. Admission is free and the evening will feature live music, locally sourced buffet, prize raffle and auction. Again, please confirm your attendance to Trevor Backhouse to assist in gauging catering
- **Otley In Bloom** – the voluntary body that keeps Otley’s floral displays in such good order will be removing litter and generally sprucing up the town etc again in early July prior to judging. Volunteers would be welcomed (please contact Katie Burnett at **Courtyard Planters**). Plans are progressing for OiB’s project to restore the stone ‘gateway’ on Pool Road following the vehicle damage it sustained shortly after installation
- **Otley Town Council** – OTC’s office function has successfully relocated to smart and much more publicly accessible and visible accommodation in Bay Horse Yard for the duration of the Civic Hall restoration
- **Otley Town Partnership** – is pleased to announce the part time secondment of Jane Chidley to assist in the promotion of OTP projects including the Farmers Market and OTP’s new website
- **Otley Victorian Fayre** – will this year be staged between 1pm and 6pm on Sunday 12th December. The Fayre Committee is seeking volunteers, especially directed towards liaising with local businesses regarding the programme advertising content. If you are able to assist please contact Ann Gadd or Trevor Backhouse (01943 467927) or for getting involved generally Steph Lee steph.lee7@talktalk.net
- **PACT** - the next Otley Police and Communities Together meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th June, Cross Green Centre (opposite the Civic Centre) at 7pm. Please note the new venue owing to Otley Civic Centre being temporarily closed. Open to residents and businesses alike, come along and talk to Otley’s local police
- **Scam #1** – Chamber members might like to exercise caution when approached by *The World Business Guide*, the *EU Company Directory* and a host of associated variations promoted by a company based at a PO Box address in Utrecht, Netherlands. The main body of their offer suggests the listing is free, only in the small print does it mention a cost of 997 Euros and a 5 year agreement. (n.b. there are a number of reputable directories with similar sounding names)
- **Scam #2** – Beware if receiving an unexpected invoice for an advert in the *9nine9 Emergency Services Booklet* costing £195. This is being sent by Tulip Publishing from a PO Box in Chester. Further details of address etc can be supplied if required

Thanks to the two vigilant Chamber members, **Winpenny Photography** and **Craftsman Tools** for these alerts. Also, if suspicious about an approach which doesn’t ring true, try researching on www.blogger.com and if a scam then tell us

- **St Michaels Hospice** – the charity shop on the corner of Market Place and Boroughgate has been refurbished and refitted ready for opening as a charity second hand bookshop
- **Unemployment** - peaked nationally at 2.51 million, a new high since December 1994, but the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in April by 27,100 to 1.52 million - the fifth fall in six months (source: Office for National Statistics). Leeds reduced from 25,008 to 23,866 whilst Otley showed a large drop of claimants registered in April from 433 to 400 (source: Leeds City Council)
- **Wharfedale Electrical Supplies Ltd** – Novita Williamson announces the arrival of a new electrical factor to Otley, located at Unit 1, Ritson Yard, Cross Green, wholesaling electrical materials and supplies to electricians, pubs, restaurants, farms and shops retailing electrical goods. www.w-es.co.uk

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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