

Otley Economic Bulletin

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A periodic round up of bite sized morsels of economic news relating to the business community in and around Otley, brought to you by Otley Chamber of Trade:-

- **1 Car UK** – are now occupying the Westgate premises long since vacated by Otley Hi Spec Windows for used car sales and valeting
- **Ainsleys** –Leeds bakers Ainsleys has been broken up and sold. Of the company's 29 leasehold retail outlets across West Yorkshire, one of which is on Boroughgate, 20 have been split between Cooplands of Scarborough and Cooplands of Doncaster. The Ainsleys bakery identity will continue having been bought by Leeds based Countrystyle Foods. Grant Thornton acted as administrators
- **Bowling Green** – Whilst refurbishment work appears to have ground to a halt since the original flurry, JD Wetherspoon has made Listed Building and Advertising Consent applications for replacement external signage
- **Buon Apps** – the Wharfebank Business Park restaurant has added another ‘theme’ night to its menu. In addition to the regional speciality dishes served on a Wednesday, Thursdays now offer tuition of Italian phrases whilst you eat
- **Craftsman Tools Ltd** – The Side Copse based precision engineers announce that it has been accepted as a member of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre based at Catcliffe, Rotherham. The AMRC is a joint venture between the University Of Sheffield and aircraft manufacturer Boeing “with the vision to create a world class Centre of Manufacturing Excellence in the United Kingdom”. Craftsman find themselves in the company of fellow member Bromley Technologies, the high-tech bobsleigh designer and manufacturer owned by Winter Olympic skeleton racer Kristan Bromley
- **Festivals** – signalling the approaching end of a long winter, dates for your diary have now been confirmed for Otley Show (22nd May), Otley Carnival (19th June), Cycle Races (Wednesday 23rd June) and Walking Festival (26th June-4th July), all events that help promote the town and which merit support from local businesses
- **London Town Group** – the Norfolk based pub manager that has been working with pub owners Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns to re-open closed pubs has gone into administration. London Town have struck a pre-pack deal with administrators from PricewaterhouseCoopers that will see pub agents Christie & Co selling 44 pubs of LTG’s 407 managed and tenanted houses. No substantive change is envisaged to the

2 located in Otley which have been offered for long term lease anyway locally and leases on the remaining 350 odd sites are expected to revert to original holders Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns

- **Otley Town Council** – distribution agents Audience Yorkshire delivered 750 copies of the OTC designed and produced *Gateway t' Dales* pamphlet, publicising the myriad delights of Otley, to 12 West Yorkshire tourist information locations during the first half of January 2010. This represented more than double the previous months totals
- **Paul Verity Opticians** - report that they “have now completed a makeover of our Otley practice incorporating attractive new spectacle frame displays, improved showroom and testroom lighting, more visible external signage for a greater onstreet presence. A programme of external and internal redecoration will commence in the spring. We expect that this continuing investment will enhance our position as a premium Optometry practice having served the people of Otley since 1993”
- **Social Evening** – Otley Chamber is joining with The Rotary Club of Otley in an evening of darts, dominos and the general chance to socialise at Otley Cricket Club, Pool Road from 7pm, Wednesday 17th March 2010. All are welcome, no entry charge and the bar and nibbles will be available
- **Unemployment** – the number of claimants in Otley & Yeadon jumped from a pre-Christmas total of 416 to a recent high of 434 in January. Citywide the figure also increased sharply from 24047 to 25085 (source: Leeds City Council)
- **VAT Returns** – during February 2010 HMRC will send a letter to businesses that on 31 December 2009 had an annual turnover of £100,000 or more (exclusive of VAT) explaining that after 1 April 2010 all VAT Returns must now be made online. Businesses newly registering for VAT on or after 1 April 2010 (regardless of turnover, including nil and repayment returns) will also have to submit VAT Returns online and pay any VAT due electronically. More information at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat/vat-online/>
- **Wharfemeadows Park** – Leeds City Council confirm the approval of a welcome improvement for one of the towns better used recreation areas. A £235,000 scheme to refurbish the play area will include replacement of play equipment, fencing and safety features, seats, bins and signage. Work, financed via the Parks Renaissance fund, is anticipated to start April 2010 and be completed by August

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