

Otley Economic Bulletin

Issue 11, May 2010



www.otleychamber.co.uk

President: T 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:-

- **Appleby Cards & Gifts** – Otley Chamber of Trade is delighted to welcome the Market Place gift and card shop to membership of the Chamber. New applicants from anyone within the Otley business community and who has an interest in the economic wellbeing of the town is welcome
- **Bay Tree** – after 2½ years, the café in Bay Horse Yard sadly announces its closure due to personal circumstances
- **Bowling Green** – roofing and structural work is well underway on the original pub and outbuildings, JD Wetherspoon now quote an opening date of June 25th
- **Cock Pit Farm Tea Rooms** – congratulations to Sue Sansbury’s idyllic Weston based farmhouse tearooms on their charity auction to support the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. With Askwith Village Hall thronged and a catalogue of 90 plus auction lots to sell, including a good number received from a variety of Otley based businesses, a total of £1,995 was raised
- **Excess signage** – borne out of a survey undertaken by Otley Chamber of Trade and submitted to Otley Town Council with which to approach Leeds City Council, LCC Highways have now undertaken to remove 21, possibly more, duplicated or redundant signs that currently clutter our streetscape
- **Giantsale.co.uk** – whilst predominantly internet orientated, the west Yorkshire based French style bedroom, dining and bathroom furniture mirrors and lighting retailer is now also trading from their new showroom, the former Clintons Cards premises on Kirkgate. The whole length of Kirkgate is again now fully occupied
- **Kirkgate** – following on from the work carried out to re-lay the sets in the Marketplace. Otley’s Leeds City Councillors have met with LCC Highways engineers seeking access to available funding to have the damaged areas of Kirkgate re-paved
- **Lighthouse Risk Services** - having addressed Otley Chamber’s March meeting, Guiseley based Lighthouse now make an offer to all existing Otley Chamber members: “Lighthouse is willing to meet with you and undertake a free fire risk assessment of your premises. The opportunity can also be taken to discuss any pressing issues you may have in respect of Health & Safety or Employment Law.”

“Lighthouse’s services cover two main areas, Employment Law and Health & Safety. Supported by a comprehensive Legal Expenses Indemnity, the aim is to effectively provide clients with their own in-house H/R, Health & Safety and Legal Departments. The services are well priced, extremely user-friendly and we have the flexibility to meet individual customer requirements.” Those interested in this offer should contact Partner, Chris Hall on 0845 4591724. Further information on the company can be found at www.light-house.uk.com

- **Minimum Wage** – with effect from 1st October 2010 hourly national minimum wage rates will be increased to £5.93 (over 21’s), £4.92 (18-20 year olds) and £3.64 (16-17 year olds). Thanks for the advice to Wharfebank Business Centre based consultants **Sentient**, specialists in company legal, HR, H&S, Food Safety, training and management information. For more details and the opportunity to subscribe to their excellent regular employment and H&S related free newsletter, at www.sentientuk.co.uk
- **Original Factory Shop** – with their £250000 investment complete, Burnley based Original Factory Shop opened for business on 17th April in the former Crossgate Netto premises. In addition to the 20 staff positions created, OFS will be seeking a local community cause to support during 2010. The Area Manager to contact is Darren Scott
- **Otley Chamber of Trade** – continued its gastronomic tour of the town with April’s social evening visiting the Dales Café for an evening of authentic Greek cuisine. No plates were harmed
- **Otley Chamber of Trade** – invites the business community to its next general meeting on Tuesday 18th May, 6.30pm at Leeds City College (formerly Park Lane College) on Charles Street. This month features a presentation from local marketing and design agency Biskit who have over 80 clients in a range of diverse markets including retail, mail order, charity, government, industrial, education, travel and tourism
- **Otley Economic Bulletin** – approaching its first anniversary and with a circulation now reaching approx 300 within the local business community, Otley Chamber of Trade’s monthly newsletter has started to receive requests for the Bulletin to carry modestly priced advertising with which to sponsor printing costs. Is this of interest to your business? If so, please let us know
- **Otley in Bloom** – a busy time for Katie Burnett from **Courtyard Planters** and OIB’s band of hard working volunteers – Otley in Bloom’s project to plant an avenue of rowan trees along a length of one of the main access routes into Otley has been completed. A number of sponsors, including Otley Chamber of Trade, Rotary Club of Otley and OCT members Kirkgate Arcade, assisted. Thanks also to OIB for the continued good work in the litter collection and general sprucing up around the town prior to April’s Yorkshire In Bloom judging
- **Otley Town Council** - whilst the Civic Centre is under repair Otley Town Council are to temporarily relocate to premises within Bay Horse Yard. OTC’s presence will help increase footfall through one of Otley’s hidden gems and will assist the Council in engaging more directly with the general public
- **Otley Town Partnership** – the voluntary body that promotes economic and community interests to improve, promote and develop the town – notably the Farmers Markets - forecast that their new and improved website www.visitotley.co.uk will be launched by 1st May 2010,

to replace the existing Otley-Online. Otley based web designers and IT specialists **Dataphiles** acted

- **Rotary Club of Otley** – would like to invite Otley Chamber of Trade members to a musical and social evening on Saturday 8th May 2010 on behalf of charities Martin House Hospice and Shelterbox. Almscliffe Hall, Huby features a licensed bar and tickets cost £15 including buffet and entertainment from Celtic folk group Reel Jiggy. Please confirm to Trevor Backhouse 01943 467927
- **Sarah's Tearoom and Food To Go** – is now brewing up in the former Chevin Books premises, bringing some welcome new activity to Clapgate
- **Studio 7** - have taken over the hairdressing premises in New Inn Court
- **Unemployment** – the number of claimants in Otley & Yeadon Ward, previously standing at 439 during February dropped slightly to 433 in March. Leeds as a whole also fell from February's 25,482 to 25008 (source: Leeds City Council)
- **Woolpack** – application has been made to Leeds City Council by former Courthouse trustees Richard Sabey and Frances Taylor for the conversion of the long empty pub into a multi-use community arts and education establishment, a proposal that has the support of Otley Chamber. Their vision can be viewed at www.bighooaha.co.uk
- **Yeoman** – with its pub sign now gone the Gay Lane pub, once known as the Fountain, appears to have a 'dry' future
- **Yorkshire Soap Company** – are now supplying their bespoke decorative soaps to Alton Towers and are in negotiations with National Trust shops

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