

THANK YOU OTLEY

A large, vibrant rainbow with distinct bands of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple arches across the middle of the page, framing the central text.

**OUR COMMUNITY
HELPING, WORKING
AND COMING TOGETHER**

OTLEY'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The last few weeks and months have been difficult in ways that none of us could have predicted as individuals far and wide have had to cope with fear, loss and hardship. And yet it has also been a time when the compassion and strength within our communities have been seen in many and wonderful ways. The community response within Otley has been striking.

Alongside the NHS and essential workers, there have been many other individual acts of kindness, there have been street groups springing up, local initiatives to support the NHS and care staff with equipment and a great effort by local shops to have products available and delivered. There has also been a coordinated Otley response to support those who might find lockdown and self-isolation particularly challenging.

In the first few days of the crisis, Otley Action for Older People, Otley Courthouse, Otley Food Bank, Otley Churches Together and the Town Council met. The groups shared a belief that working together would be important to ensuring the most effective response to unprecedented demands for help. A plan was quickly made. Otley Action would continue its work with the over 60s, whilst the Courthouse would manage the processing of volunteers and support other residents who were having to self-isolate. The Food Bank would receive referrals from the other agencies. The Town Council would give administrative and financial support as needed including arranging for leaflets to be printed that could be distributed to every household detailing Otley's response to the pandemic.

Over the weeks since, the system has worked well, saving duplication and avoiding confusion, without preventing any other brilliant initiatives in unprecedented times.

Otley Action for Older People has done outstanding work: with the support of the Otley community they have been managing to respond to all requests for help within a day or two of their coming in. This is even though the number of requests has gradually risen. During the first four weeks of the crisis, for example, the number of new members

accessing support rose by 77, to take the total to over 1100. This created a similar number of weekly calls to the help line. Nearly 80 people have had help weekly with shopping and picking up prescriptions. Every week, 90 people have been receiving fish and chips delivered to their door! Nearly 300 people have had regular phone calls from Council staff and a team of volunteers.

As part of this effort, the Otley Courthouse-administered database of existing and new volunteers grew quickly. The community response was amazing and within ten days over eighty volunteers had registered with the initiative. As well as helping with the tasks above, parcels have been collected and errands run; some people and children have even made cards to distribute amongst those who are alone in order to cheer them up.

Generous support of food and meals has also been received from organisations as diverse as Jet2 and the Black Horse and the Milk Bar in Otley. Individuals have also been generous with food support as the demands on Otley Food Bank have increased as the crisis bit. Otley Food Bank gave out a total of 18 food parcels in the 3 weeks to 22nd March; it gave out 66 in the following 3 weeks.

Sue Trainor, the Project Manager for Otley Action, commented "The current crisis has proved demanding yet interesting as Otley Action for Older People endeavour to co-ordinate the requests for help with offers of support. It is great to see how the community is rising to the challenge and really supporting those most at risk".

Richard Hughes, the Chair of Otley Town Council, added "The community response has been fantastic. It has been heartening to see Council, voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals come together to support members of our Otley community who have had particular challenges at this time. I would like to thank you all for your efforts at this difficult time."

This article was written on 21st April and all information was correct at the time of writing.

Town Mayor's News

We as a community have had some very challenging times during the coronavirus pandemic.

I wish to say a huge thank you to the many volunteers and voluntary groups who have pooled together to ensure the most needy and vulnerable within our community receive the most essential food and household items. During this time as Mayor I have had to cancel my events to raise funds for my chosen charities; however, I will fulfil my obligations and honour my commitment by continuing to support and raise funds at a later time when we are safe to do so. I further want to praise all the administration staff of Otley Town Council who although working from home ensured Council business had minimum disruption and you the community still had access to information. Most importantly I wish to applaud all our NHS and care workers, the many shop workers and delivery teams for putting themselves at risk to ensure our community is safe.



Photograph by Wimpenny Photography

Otley's Response to COVID-19

**STAY SAFE
GET HELP
MAKE CONTACT**

If you are over 60 and need support, phone
**OTLEY ACTION FOR OLDER PEOPLE
01943 463965**
10am - 4pm Monday to Friday

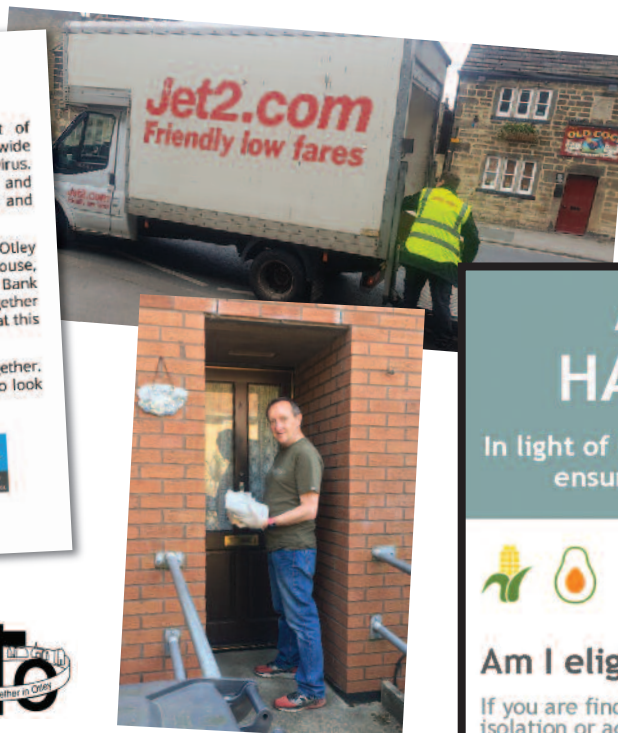
If you are under 60 and need support or you want
to volunteer to help, phone
**OTLEY COURTHOUSE
01943 467466**
10am - 4pm Monday to Friday

For the most up to date information please visit:
HM Government: www.gov.uk

Currently we all face a unique set of challenges caused by the worldwide outbreak and spread of the coronavirus. Our main priority remains the safety and wellbeing of all residents, businesses and the general public.

A group of local organisations including Otley Action for Older People, Otley Courthouse, Otley Churches Together, Otley Food Bank and Otley Town Council have come together to offer support to those who need it at this time.

We recognise that we are in this together. We want everyone to stay safe and to look after one another.



MONEY PROBLEMS? GET ADVICE

These are difficult times financially for many people as COVID-19 will have reduced the income of many Otley residents. Often, people will not have experienced such challenges before and will not know where to get advice. If that is you, there are lots of great advice services to help support you in dealing with debt and unpaid bills.

Leeds City Council have an excellent service for those in need of support. Either go to www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus or telephone 0113 378 1877. The help is free.

The Leeds Money Information Centre (www.leeds.gov.uk/mic) provides details on how to access free, confidential advice and support on debt, money, benefits, emergency food, low-cost loans and reducing utility bills.

The Leeds City Council Welfare Rights Unit provides advice and support on a wide range of welfare benefits and can be contacted via telephone (0113 376 0452) or email welfare.rights@leeds.gov.uk

The Citizens Advice Bureau are also available to provide support and can be contacted via telephone on 0344 411 1444, for the Leeds office on 0113 223 4400 or 0800 144 8444 for the Help to Claim team.

There are also many other organisations who can give advice, many of which are also free to use. There is a list on the Town Council website at www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone us for a copy on 01943 466335.

ARE YOU FINDING IT HARD TO ACCESS FOOD?

In light of COVID-19 we are putting additional support in place to ensure everyone is able to access the food they need.



Am I eligible for help?

If you are finding it difficult to access food due to financial constraints, self-isolation or accessibility of food provision, then you are eligible for help.

When making the referral you will be asked questions about your personal situation which will enable us to determine what type of support you require.

How can I access help?

If you think you may be eligible to help from these scheme then you can contact a local keyworker or service who will make a referral for you.

This might be somewhere or someone you already have contact with such as a school, college, social worker, housing officer or it could be a provision in your local area such as a Community Hub.

Ideally a referral should be made through one of these support services, however if you are finding it hard to access these please make a self-referral by calling us on **0113 376 0330**. This is a free number.

What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, we will pass your information on to local volunteer coordinators, and you will be provided with a food parcel or a supermarket voucher.

This will be either delivered to a provision hub near your home for you to collect, such as a community hub, school, foodbank or a charity, or delivered to your home directly.

We want everyone to feel supported and will work with you to see what route is best for you.

For more information and guidance please
contact the Local Welfare Support Team on **0113 376 0330**.



OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

18-20 September 2020

These days we seem to be surrounded by bad news; illness, cancellations and closures have become the norm. At folk festival HQ, we are busy planning this year's entertainment. We are determined, if our venues can re-open, to go ahead with our twenty-ninth Otley Folk Festival.

Artists standing by to entertain us include Chris While & Julie Matthews, Grannies Attic, The Churchfitters, Katy Spencer, The Heathen Kings, Phil Cockerham Trio plus a host of local folk entertainers and a selection of Morris Teams and street entertainers.

Events will include concerts, folk club, pub sessions, sing-arounds and workshops, a tribute concert to celebrate the work of Otley fan Jackie Leven, plus sessions led by The Leeds College of Music and some of our other artists.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that there will be a relaxation of the 'lockdown', the pubs will re-open and we will be able to enjoy a great weekend of music. Look after yourselves.

Keep an eye on our website www.otleyfolkfestival.com

OTLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

Otley Choral Society is looking to the future. The choir was forced to cancel its concert in May but plans for the new season are already in place.

The first concert for the choir will be a performance of Handel's Messiah with Ilkley Choral Society and the Yorkshire Chamber Orchestra at Otley Parish Church on Saturday 19th December; a fantastic way to begin the Christmas celebrations for both choirs and anyone who enjoys this wonderful choral masterpiece. Tickets will go on sale in November and it is anticipated that as in previous years, they will sell out.

Rehearsals for Otley Choral Society are hoping to begin at the beginning of September (take a look at the website www.otleychoral.org.uk for confirmation). During the Autumn term the choir will be preparing pieces that feature in the spring programme: Elgar's exhilarating "*Dream of Gerontius*", and the wonderful "*St John's Passion*" by Bach. New members are always very welcome.



Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration Postponed

For thirty years Otley's Chamber Choir, The Chippendale Singers, has been entertaining audiences and raising money for local charities both in West Yorkshire and further afield. Under the baton of its musical director, Lee Wiltamuth, the choir planned to give a birthday concert on 6th June at the Parish Church supporting Otley Action for Older People, one of the town's most respected organisations.

Choristers were busy rehearsing for this important concert and are very disappointed that it has had to be postponed, especially as all the previous musical directors (and there have been four in all) were going to conduct on the night. However, this is a postponement, not a cancellation. Conductor Lee Wiltamuth has encouraged the singers to practise 'online' and choir members hope to be united again soon to prepare for this special concert later this year or in 2021.

OTLEY WALKING FESTIVAL

Sadly, due to COVID-19, Otley Walking Festival 2020 is cancelled. Rest assured, we'll be back next year to celebrate the 20th Otley Walking Festival in style.

With around 50 walks and events, there really will be something for everyone. The popular Six Dales Trail from Otley to Middleham, along with old favourites like Cakes and Ale and The Despicable Liars. New themed walks include Wild Flowers, Weston Hall Visit, Otley Chevin Geological Trail, Yorkshire Grit, Walking to Work with Tolkein, Dales Bus Walk from Timble - too many to list here! And many walks showcasing the wonderful Wharfedale countryside we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep. A fantastic programme - "oven ready" for 2021.

Thanks go to our volunteer walk leaders and our financial sponsors: BACKCOUNTRYUK, Bondgate Bakery, Leeds City Councillors, Otley Town Council, Yorkshire Water.

For the latest updates on Otley Walking Festival 2021 go to www.otleywalkingfestival.co.uk
Stay safe everyone.

Ruth Blackwell,
Chair, Otley Walking Festival Organising Committee



OTLEY FOLK CLUB

Along with every other group, club and venue, the Otley Folk Club (every Wednesday at the Black Horse Hotel) is temporarily suspended. As soon as it is safe to do so we intend to re-open.

We will be re-setting dates with booked artists who include Stanley Accrington, PlumHall, The Jon Palmer Band, Tony Wilson with Tom McConville and Damien Barber.

Club stalwarts Steve, Malcolm, Zeke, Rick, Tony and Anne are itching to get back and judging from the many emails and telephone messages we have had, so are you. Let's hope that the coronavirus pandemic is controlled sooner rather than later but until it is please make sure that you keep safe.

To stay updated, keep an eye on our website: www.otleyfolkclub.org

OTLEY CHEVIN ORCHARD PROJECT

I'm writing this whilst in lockdown but forever the optimist I hope that when you read it the Coronavirus nightmare is just a painful memory.

We did however manage to get some of our Spring maintenance done. Thanks go to Friends of Chevin Forest who can be seen here resting after a fruitful (sorry) day of planting, fertilizing and tidying up. Crucially pruning was accomplished and at this point the harvest looks promising.

Under normal circumstances I would be announcing the dates for the juicing weekends and our first Apple Day in

October. I think they will happen but at short notice and only when a degree of certainty returns. Please keep an eye out for an email and on Facebook once lockdown has been lifted.

The project's aim to avoid food wastage by use of our juicing equipment is proving very popular, with numbers of supporters growing year by year. Tons of fruit have been turned into juice. Fingers crossed for a bumper crop this year, and I hope you were able to visit the Orchard in spring to see the blossom.

For up-to-date information on all our activities check out our Facebook page [@otleychevinorchardproject](https://www.facebook.com/otleychevinorchardproject)



26 Challenge Fundraiser

Otley mum Esme Westmoreland raised over £7,000 for Martin House Hospice Care for Children and Young People in memory of her daughter Cecelia after taking part in her own version of the 2.6 challenge, by taking on 26 challenges in just one day.

From physical challenges to baking, they were all set by friends and family, with support from her husband James. The challenges were undertaken in memory of her daughter Cecelia, who died earlier this year, less than a month after celebrating her first birthday, after being diagnosed with a genetic condition called 1p36 shortly after she was born.

Esme said: "Ever since we first accessed Martin House, we have always said that we needed to do a big fundraising event as a way of thanks for all the support we were receiving. We were planning to do a five-day walk through the Yorkshire Dales but COVID-19 soon cast doubt on when we would be able to do that, hence our version of the 2.6 challenge. We are extremely proud of what we have achieved; to raise such a significant amount of money for Martin House in Cecelia's memory is fantastic. It turned out to be such an enjoyable day and it was amazing to receive all the fantastic messages of support and encouragement from all over the world. It really felt people were there with us cheering us on from our own back garden, rather than just over the internet!"

You can read Cecelia's story at www.martinhouse.org.uk/Cecelia



**WHARFEDALE
GARDENERS' GROUP**
www.wharfedalegardeners.co.uk

What a spring and summer, with cancellations of our final meeting, plant sale and garden visits. On the plus side we hope everyone has enjoyed having plenty of time in the garden.

All being well, we will kick off for the 2020/21 season on 8th September with a talk by Pete and Julie Williams on shade-loving plants. We then have a wonderful programme, including Jacqui Iddon giving a Christmas demonstration and Kevin Pratt talking about pictorial garden plants. A bit out of the ordinary is John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum, basing his talk on his trek in the Rwenzori Mountains, Uganda, including gorillas! Our Christmas party will still take place at Otley Rugby Club and we have lots more of interest in the new year.

Wharfedale Gardeners meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Otley Methodist Church, Boroughgate at 7.30pm. Further information from our website or our membership secretary, Christine Good at wharfedalegardeners@gmail.com



**Otley Parish
CHURCH**

"The congregation of Otley Parish Church tries very hard to ensure it is "A Place for Everyone, with Christ at the Centre" and to that end we hold five different styles of worship service"
(Q March OMs)

How things have changed since that was written! The church building may be closed, and many planned events have been put on hold, but the church people are not! We remain committed to worshipping God, loving one another and serving our community and are rising to the challenge like countless other people. Our Sunday Morning Service is now being streamed each week and is available to everyone.

As someone quipped, "God is not self-isolating" and nor are His people! Of course, we are socially distancing and adhering to the Government Guidelines but our hands and most importantly, our hearts, remain open to receive His blessings and to pass them on to others.

Full details at www.otleyparishchurch.org mobile: 07902 164504
info@otleyparishchurch.org

Otley in Bloom



OTLEY IN BLOOM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Otley in Bloom was formed in 2000 by a group of local volunteers with the aim of enhancing and greening the public spaces in Otley and raising civic pride in our community. We have worked with local businesses, interested groups, the Town and City Councils to achieve these objectives.

We contributed to the Town Enhancement Study, Neighbourhood Plan, are involved with Wildlife Friendly Otley and Otley 2030. Some of the highlights of the past 20 years have been:

- The creation of floral displays around the town with many tubs, planters, hanging baskets on the streets, Buttercross, bus station, barriers and lamp posts
- Reintroducing the Otley Phlox bred by Fred Simpson
- Sustainable planting such as the Nectar Bed in Wharfedale Park with information boards to raise public awareness of environmental issues
- Annual bulb giveaway
- Reviving neglected areas and community gardens such as Westgate, Charles Street Car Park, Cambridge Street, Craven Street, Bremner Street, Weston Lane

- Working with local schools and youth groups, to set up and observe Bird Boxes and Bug Hotels
- Creating a Sensory Garden at Spring Gardens Residential Home, planting up the new garden at Union Court
- Creating floral displays with bikes for the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire on roads and roundabouts
- Creating the stone gateways into Otley and outside the Fire Station with Yorkshire drystone wallers
- Leading walks as part of the Walking Festival, participating in the Christmas Tree and Flower Festivals at Otley Parish Church
- Success in the annual Yorkshire in Bloom competition with the Top Gold Award in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- In 2017 we were chosen to represent Yorkshire in Britain in Bloom and were awarded a Silver Gilt.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the schoolroom of Courtyard Planters.

Contact us for more information:

www.otleyinbloom.co.uk

or via our Facebook page 'Otley in Bloom'

BOOST TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN LOWER WHARFEDALE

Conservation projects in Lower Wharfedale have received a boost following two grants from local businesses pledging their support to increase wildlife habitats in the area.

Local charity Open Country, which enables people with a disability to access and enjoy the countryside, has received a £4,000 grant from Sovereign Health Care's Community Programme and just over £3,300 from the Betty's Trees for Life Fund. The money is already being used towards projects including scrub bashing, tree planting, installing benches and pathway improvement at Gallows Hill and Otley Chevin Country Park.

Open Country has 30 years of experience in supporting its members with disabilities and other complex needs to access the countryside through a variety of different outdoor activities. The charity's Trailblazers conservation group provides a safe and therapeutic environment for the members to enjoy being outdoors, learn new skills and make a difference to nature.

The Betty's Trees for Life Fund, administered by the Two Ridings Community Foundation, was launched during the business's centenary year to celebrate their long-term passion for trees, the local environment and improving access to the green spaces across Yorkshire. Using the money from Betty's, the Open Country members have already carried out six days of conservation work at sites across Lower Wharfedale and will be inviting some of the team from Betty's Cafe in Ilkley to join them to finish the work once the COVID-19 crisis is over.

Bradford-based Sovereign Health Care has a long history of supporting community initiatives which promote health and wellbeing. Chief Executive Russ Piper says: "We welcome the opportunity to support a project which has such a positive impact on both people and the environment. Working on conservation projects improves the health and wellbeing of the Open Country members, but the work



Photograph by @Andrew Gallon

they're doing has the potential to impact the lives of so many others, whilst conserving our precious nature habitats at the same time."

Alongside their conservation work, Open Country also organises a variety of countryside activities throughout the year including walking, cycling, nature study and outings. The charity also provides specialist information, training and advice to landowners, councils and outdoor organisations looking to improve disabled access.

David Shaftoe, Chief Officer at Open Country, says: "We believe that accessing the countryside should be a right not a privilege and therefore our conservation work is hugely important in opening up more outdoor sites to people of all abilities. However, we can only do it with the support of businesses like Bettys and Sovereign Health Care who are committed to making a difference in their community."

For more information about Open Country and how to become a volunteer, visit www.opencountry.org.uk

Chevin Cross

This Easter, for perhaps only the second time in 50 years, the Cross was unable to be erected on Otley Chevin, due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Normally, people in the town could look up and see the wooden structure, an eternal, international symbol of hope, strong and solid and familiar; or they could climb the Chevin and stand beneath it, suddenly dwarfed by its height. But not this year. And yet, a Cross appeared nonetheless, one made from branches and placed in the slot, and its image was widely circulated on social media.



And the Cross in the Marketplace also appeared as usual, both of them illustrating that Christ is not just "up there" but is very much "down here", in our midst, feeling our pain and sharing our joys, surely the true message of Easter.



OTLEY ARTS CLUB

Of course, Art is excellent therapy...we hope many people have been discovering a joy in becoming more creative.

The club managed to hold its AGM just before the directives to refrain from gathering together.

Since then we maintain a Facebook Page under our name and logo and have a weekly newsletter in which members can share photos of their ongoing work and with suggestions for virtual gallery visits, ideas and reviews.

We are mindful of some members who do not access the internet and try to remain in contact using other technologies!

We have suspended our programme, planning to rearrange as soon as the all clear is given. Rather than publish dates that may have to be moved we will be thinking in terms of a year's delay on the various existing demonstration and workshop bookings. Hopefully there will be a full and varied programme for the reopening.

Due to the closure of the Welfare Centre, we have also had to plan to relocate our meetings. This was decided before the closure. Details to follow.

If you would like to purchase a painting from one of our gifted amateur artists, please get in touch.



OUR TOWN WHERE WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Walkers are Welcome Otley have suspended any activities during this lockdown, but we want to again make you aware of the wonderful walks that we have published that you can set foot on once the restrictions are lifted. These include our two leaflets for £1.00 each, that have maps and descriptions of walks between 3-12 miles: **Otley FOUR Walks** and **Otley FOUR MORE Walks**; and our two long-distance walks **The Six Dales Trail** and the **Welcome Way** which can be walked in sections using our guidebooks with maps and descriptions.

When the shops are open again, you can purchase these at Mounseys, Just Books and at the Town Council offices. There are also available at Mounseys two free leaflets: **Chevin Forest Park Historical Trails (East and West)** that were developed with Friends of the Chevin.

We also want to make you aware that this year is the 10th Anniversary of the Six Dales Trail, the 38-mile route from Otley through the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to Middleham in Wensleydale. We will be announcing a special event to celebrate its success which has attracted hundreds of walkers from the UK and abroad.

Please see our website walkersarewelcome.org.uk to find out more about these walks and how you can purchase online.



CHEVIN MAZE

The dry stone maze near the top of Johnny Lane, near the White House on Otley Chevin, was completed just before Christmas. Built of reclaimed sandstone over the last three years by members of the Otley and Yorkshire Dales branch DSWA the maze is now open for confusion! Judging by the tracks visible in the inevitable mud, lots of you have already had a try!

Thanks are due to the Chevin Country Park rangers who have supported us throughout; identifying sources of stone, providing wood chippings to line it and even climbing the tree to provide the aerial view. We would also like to thank Otley Town Council for their grant which allowed the purchase of stone for the central plinth and the commemorative plaque now incorporated into the maze wall.

We haven't moved far away and are now rebuilding the derelict wall on top of the Chevin near the Surprise View car park. Come and see us on Thursdays; you never know, you might be inspired to join us! We run numerous beginners' training courses throughout the year; please see our website for details www.otleyyorksdswa.org



Otley Women Together

Thanks to support from Otley Town Council, Otley Courthouse, Otley Labour Rooms and Otley Film Society, several events took place in the first weeks of 2020 organised by the group Otley Women Together. The group is an informal collection of women who organise events mostly around the time of International Women's Day but also during the year. Events are publicised in Otley Matters and the local press as well as local websites.

The first event took place in January and was a Carers' Café on Wednesday 29th January at Otley Courthouse. There were three speakers, each followed by a question-and-answer session. Speakers from Carers Leeds, the Alzheimers Society and End of Life Doula gave interesting and informative presentations.

Two film showings were given at the Courthouse in early March; the first was 'Wild Rose', the story of a young woman trying to fulfil her dream of becoming a famous singer, and the second was part of the Feminista Film Festival. This was a series of short films about courageous and outstanding women and girls.

Certain Curtain Theatre presented a well received one woman show at the Courthouse on

6th March, depicting the life of suffragette Edith Rigby, who took part in many suffragette activities, both militant and peaceful.

Finally, on International Women's Day itself, Otley Women Together organised a 'Quiz and Fizz' event at Otley Labour Rooms. Over 30 people attended the quiz and celebrated the day in style with fizz, cake and laughter.



RAMBLERS KEEP ACTIVE IN LS21

The Ramblers are the UK's largest voluntary walking organisation with 500 groups. Lower Wharfedale Ramblers (LWR) is the group covering LS21. Many members live in the area, with many LWR walks starting and finishing in LS21 (e.g. Swinsty Reservoir, Wharfemeadows Park, Bramhope). The group offer five levels of walk each week, including a new group especially for older walkers.

LWR also works with North Yorkshire County Council to help maintain local footpaths and stiles on behalf of all walkers. Typically the Council provides materials and LWR the labour. Recent projects include: a new stile in Farnley and three gates and replacement of rotten stiles in Weeton. LWR footpath officer, Antonia Woosnam-Savage, lives in Otley.

If you are interested in walking with the Ramblers or wish to report a footpath issue, visit www.lowerwharfedaleramblers.co.uk



The Buttercross Belles - keeping on dancing

Sadly, there could be no community dancing with colourful ribbons around Otley's Maypole on May Day, but social distancing and self-isolating hasn't stopped the Buttercross Belles from dancing.

The Morris community responded with a virtual 'Lone Morris' event, with several Belles taking part. Our musicians recorded our dance tunes so we could all practise at home. The new dance we've been learning, a Wakefield Morris dance called 'Celebration', is danced individually. We're looking forward to dancing it for you the next time we are at an Otley community event.

We hope that by September we'll be able to meet up again for our regular Thursday 7.30 to 9.30 pm practice at St Joseph's School in Otley. Women of all ages (over 18), are always welcome, as either dancers or musicians or both. Male musicians are welcome too. Do come and join us. Please contact Jaci Bowman: squire@buttercrossbelles.com or visit: www.buttercrossbelles.com

ANYONE FOR TENNIS



It's surprising how many people are unaware that Otley has a tennis club. With its wooded setting on the edge of Grove Hill Park and opposite Wharfebank Mills it is a great place to expend some time and energy in a very friendly and competitive environment. The club has four floodlit courts plus a brand-new purpose-built clubhouse. There is mixed social tennis on a Sunday afternoon along with ladies' and gents' sessions through the week. Outside social tennis, members can use the courts whenever they like and can even bring in non-

members for a small fee. Whether you play currently, have played in the past and fancy starting up again or have never played before and would like to have a go (coaching available), we'd love to hear from you. For more information please contact Nick on 07877 736806 or nicksmith70@sky.com <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/GroveHillOtleyTennisClub>

VE/VJ Day Anniversary



On the 8th May it was 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. The end of the conflict was not until Japan announced its surrender on 15th August. Enormous sacrifices, courage and determination had been made by millions of people at home and around the world, from all works of life to bring peace.

To commemorate this important time Otley will celebrate the 75th anniversary at an appropriate point in the future. Plans and dates will be announced when available.

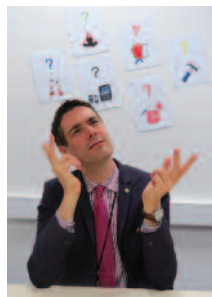
In addition, to mark this historic occasion, Otley Town Council has been undertaking research and collecting memories and stories of wartime experiences. This research and the stories will be collated in a publication and short film to be released later this year.



Class Ideas Sought

Prince Henry's is asking local residents to get in touch on info@princehenrys.co.uk with any suggestions for new courses which can be run as part of their new September 2020 Community Education programme. Although the programme has had to be paused over the summer months, tutors have been offering local residents a variety of independent learning opportunities.

"We have been delighted to be able to support our tutors and students over the Summer and are now planning for our usual Autumn programme. We would love to know if there are subjects in which local people would like us to run courses. We pride ourselves on responding to community requests, so do get in touch. We can't promise we will run every suggestion, but if we can find a tutor and enough people to enrol, we will have a go," said Christopher Lillington, Assistant Head and Programme Director.



IMAGES FROM OTLEY'S PAST



Licks Cattle Market 1884



Market Place Pre Jubilee Clock c1888



Old Grammar School 1904



Boroughgate and Maypole 1906



Otley Station 1910



Bondgate c1912



Bandstand in the Park 1926



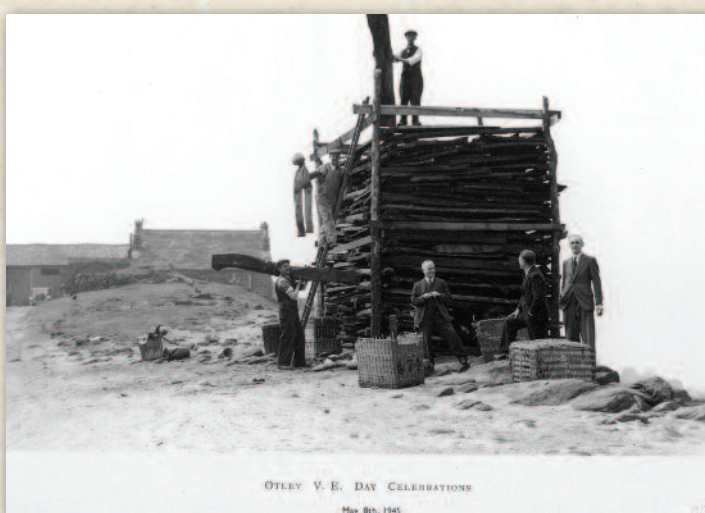
River Wharfe 1929



River Wharfe floods 1935



Wharfemeadows Swimming Pool 1930s



Otley Beacon 1945



Weston Drive Prefabs 1953



All photographs
sourced from
Otley Museum
and Archive Trust

CONTACTING YOUR COUNCILLORS

ASHFIELD WARD



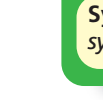
Kim Holmes (Lib Dem)
kim.holmes@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



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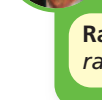


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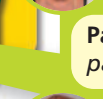


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MANOR WARD



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Back row left to right: Terry Ford (Bellman); Cllr Gareth Dibble; Cllr Paul Carter; Cllr Richard Hughes (Chair of Council); Cllr Linda Hoare; Cllr Jo Allen; Cllr Mick Bradley; Cllr Ray Smith; Dr Jason Knowles (Community Development Officer)

Front row left to right: Cllr Kim Holmes; Cllr Sylvia Thomson (Deputy Town Mayor); Cllr Ray Georgeson; Cllr Peter Jackson (Town Mayor); Suzanne Kidger (Executive Officer); Cllr Penny Robinson; Cllr Mary Vickers

Apologies given: Cllr Colin Campbell; Cllr Nigel Francis

Photograph by Winpenny Photography, Otley

All councillors work in a voluntary capacity

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Otley Town Council's 'Otley Matters' community newsletter has been delivered to all households in the LS21 area since 1996. This quarterly publication arrives in March, June, September and December and is dedicated to providing local people with news and information on community groups, events and activities in the area.

Otley Matters is also available to pick up in locations around Otley and to read online at:

www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk/community/otley-matters/

Let us know what you think about your Otley Matters, and leave your ideas about features, topics and groups that you would like to read about in future editions.

Please email: community@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



LEEDS CITY COUNCILLORS

In light of the Government advice about social contact, Councillor surgeries for Cllr Colin Campbell, Cllr Ryk Downes and Cllr Sandy Lay are currently not taking place.

Instead, if you need to contact a Councillor please ring 07973 521547 or email colin.campbell@leeds.gov.uk

CONTACTING YOUR MP

Should you wish to speak with Alex Sobel MP please ring 0113 898 0969 or email alex@alexsobel.co.uk

ALLOTMENT NEWS

As of April 2020, under the current rules relating to COVID-19 'lockdown', it is permissible for plot holders to work their allotments. Safe working practices including social distancing are to be practiced at all times and full working guidelines can be found on the council's website www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk/news/otley-allotments-update/

As you are all aware, COVID-19 is a rapidly changing situation and by the time this edition goes to print the guidelines regarding working allotments may change. Any changes to the allotment working guidelines will be published on the Council's website and all plot holders are asked to regularly check the site.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Otley Town Council meetings are normally held at the Otley Core Resource Centre on Monday evenings, with the various committee dates advertised. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this is not possible for the foreseeable future.

In order to continue to fulfil our responsibilities to the community, the Council has decided (and in line with government approved legislation) that Full Council and Policy & Resources Committee meetings will be held only. These will take place remotely via Zoom, until social distancing regulations are ended.

Residents are welcome to view the meetings. Should you wish to address the Committee you will need to notify the Executive Officer at least 5 days prior to the meeting. For access arrangements to the meeting please contact the Executive Officer on 01943 466335 or by email eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The first of these remote meetings will be held on Monday 15th June at 7pm.

On the ending of social distancing regulations a new meeting agenda for all committees will be announced.

NEXT EDITION

To have your organisation, group or event included in Otley Matters **September Edition** please contact Jason Knowles for the editorial date in early July on 01943 466335 or email: community@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk