



BUY IN OTLEY

Shop local to help boost Otley

As the coronavirus recovery continues, the revamped **Buy In Otley** website buyinotley.co.uk is a great place to search for Otley's shops and businesses.

The site provides a comprehensive listing of most Otley businesses and allows residents and visitors to search for them by business sector and location.

Buy in Otley features more than 300 businesses from bakers to builders and toy shops to travel agents and has been produced with the backing of the Otley Town Coordination Committee, a steering group that is made up of representatives of Otley Town Council, Otley Business Improvement District (Otley BID), Otley Town Partnership, the Otley Chamber of Trade and Leeds City Councillors as well as Otley's visitor communications agency Endure Communications.

Other initiatives produced and funded by the committee over the past months include signage seen around the town and social media campaigns that carry 'welcome back' and public health messaging reminding people to be vigilant in the fight against Covid-19, as well as the *Welcome Back to Otley* video which has been a hit with more than 14,000 views.



A significant investment from Otley BID also helped to provide funding for PPE equipment to help businesses hit financially by the pandemic.

Researching businesses for the **Buy In Otley** site has been a painstaking task. If you spot any errors or omissions,

please contact james@endurecommunications.co.uk so we can ensure it is always as up-to-date as possible. If you would like to add your business, please send a high-resolution image, details of what the business offers and full contact details to the same email address.

MAKING OTLEY BLOOM AGAIN

Our beautiful riverside town is usually full of plants and flowers but 'lockdown' has meant that resources have not been available since March to maintain and replant all the displays. More than thirty large planters, all around town, were empty and sad.

Otley in Bloom put out a call for donations, funding and volunteer labour to re-plant these and spruce up others, to provide an attractive backdrop and lift everyone's spirits as life returned to our streets. We were overwhelmed and very grateful to receive so many offers of finance and support. We were especially grateful to BTS, Courtyard Planters and Otley Town Council.

Otley residents and visitors alike love the open-air markets, the parks, the shops and the friendly way of life. Having plants around reminds us how much we love and are part of nature.

At the beginning of July, across two days, teams of volunteers moved compost and filled and replenished planters. It really felt good to do something positive in these challenging times. Finally, many thanks to everyone involved, and a special thank you to all the passers-by who smiled and made positive remarks. It just confirms our belief in how truly special our town is.

Otley in Bloom meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the school room of Courtyard Planters. Contact us for more information www.otleyinbloom.co.uk or via our Facebook page 'Otley in Bloom'; we are always looking for new members!



Otley Core & Public Toilets

The Town Council-run public toilets were opened on 4th July to coincide with the opening of the majority of businesses within the town.

The reopening is in line with the gradual lifting of lockdown and lets people know that Otley is open for business as we welcome back responsible visitors and residents to our town centre in a safe way.

In order to manage the risk of Covid-19, our attended toilets will maintain high standards of cleanliness. Information is on display to remind all users to maintain good hygiene and to ensure social distancing. There have been changes to opening times (see the Town Council website or the notice on the toilet gates) but these still reflect the main shopping hours. There has been a slight increase in the admission charge to reflect the additional costs needed to ensure that the facilities are kept to the required standards.

The Council offices have also recently been re-opened and staff are following strict social distancing rules to ensure their own safety and that of customers.



OTLEY VICTORIAN FAYRE AND FARMERS' MARKET

Otley Town Partnership has sadly taken the decision to cancel this year's Victorian Fayre. Cancellation of this hugely popular event is very rare but due to the success of the Fayre and the large crowds it attracts Track and Trace and social distancing would be virtually impossible. We are very sorry as we know how popular this wonderful event is but the health and safety of everyone is paramount. We aim to be back next year, bigger and better than ever!

However, on a more positive note, we are pleased to announce that the monthly Farmers' Market has now resumed on the last Sunday of every month. All the regular stallholders are back with their usual range of great produce and will be delighted to see everyone.

Both the Victorian Fayre and Farmers' Markets have brand-new websites giving full details and updates.
www.victorianfayre.co.uk • www.yorkshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk



SIX DALES TRAIL

The Six Dales Trail is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The route was proposed by John Sparshatt to Walkers are Welcome Otley and together they devised the route and waymarked the trail.



In June 2010 a booklet was produced to guide walkers from Otley in Wharfedale across Washburndale, Nidderdale, Colsterdale and Coverdale to Middleham in Wensleydale. The trail crosses farmland and woods, rivers and becks, passes by Jervaulx Abbey and through Pateley Bridge and navigates steep hills and open moors. Most of the route is in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - and a financial contribution by the Nidderdale AONB made the trail possible.

A second edition of the guide was published in 2017. After 10 years some 10,000 people have walked the 38 miles between Otley and Middleham.

For more information see www.wawotley.org.uk

OTLEY WALKING FESTIVAL 2021

Sadly, Otley Walking Festival 2020 was cancelled. The good news is that we are already planning for next year's Otley Walking Festival. Dates for your diary are 26th June - 4th July, 2021.

During lockdown, many of us have found solace by walking the varied paths on our doorstep here in Otley and people new to walking have discovered the joys of walking in our wonderful Wharfedale countryside.

With around 50 walks and events planned for next year's Otley Walking Festival, there really will be something for everyone. Thanks to our volunteer walk leaders we have a fantastic walks programme - "oven ready" for 2021.

If you'd like to be involved in organising or leading your favourite walk in next year's Otley Walking Festival, don't hesitate to get in touch through our website or email at otleywalkingfestival@mail.com

Check our website for the latest updates on Otley Walking Festival: www.otleywalkingfestival.co.uk

Stay safe everyone.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

It is with a heavy heart that Otley Town Council has to announce the cancellation of a number of community events that had been planned for the rest of 2020.

These include the Town Crier Competition, the Remembrance Day Parade and the Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

Given the current situation with regard to Covid-19 and the requirements for social distancing and track and trace, it is felt that these events cannot be run while maintaining public health and safety.

It is intended that both Remembrance Day and Christmas will be marked in some way. Further details will be released once confirmed.



Otley Action for Older People are reaching out to the older people of the town in new and diverse ways now that lockdown and shielding restrictions are easing.

New activities are being tried and tested such as social distancing trips and lunch get togethers where small groups of people can meet in a safe environment. Back in June, volunteers Paul and Christine Hughes hosted a social distancing tea party in their back garden for three ladies. Other volunteers are now stepping forward and offering the same to those who have been self-isolating and shielding. For housebound individuals we are offering social distancing one-to-one home befriending.

Otley Action staff are available to visit service users in their own gardens to chat and talk over any issues and problems, weather permitting. If you would like to know more about the new social activities and home visits then please contact us on 01943 463965.



Tribute to Doris Gagen

Otley Action for Older People want to pay a special tribute to Doris Gagen, a director and Chair of the charity. Doris has served on the Board for many years and since 2012 has led the organisation to its current success. Doris, a stalwart of the community, celebrated her 90th birthday in 2019 and announced that she would step down from the role in 2020. At the Annual General Meeting in June 2020 Doris resigned, but remains on the Board as a director. Her successor Ailsa Bearpark and Secretary Frank Jordan thanked Doris for her contribution. Project Manager Sue Trainor presented her with a bouquet of flowers to honour the occasion. Ailsa Bearpark, who has served on the Board since 2015, will be the third Chair of the charity since its inception back in 1996. The original chair was John Eveleigh who served from 1996-2012 and remains a director.



OTLEY & DISTRICT TALKING NEWSPAPER

When the Otley & District Talking Newspaper (OTN) volunteers heard that they would not be able to access their studio to record the local paper, *The Wharfedale & Airedale Observer*, back in March, they were already making plans to continue recording at their respective homes. Fortunately, OTN created their own website several years ago, so could upload the weekly recordings there, to the Talking Newspaper App and to the British Wireless for the Blind website.

Several of the volunteers commented,
"Recording at home has been a new experience for all of us."

"At the beginning various suggestions were made to improve sound quality, which have included reading under a blanket or even a duvet to reduce the 'room echo'."

One committee member passed on tips from Radio 4 suggesting *"judicious use of rolled towels and pillows and definitely not a duvet."*

"In a studio you are in a controlled environment - if someone rings the 'doorbell' - a light goes on - there is no sound. It's not like that at home! Between tummy rumblings, clocks ticking, text alert pings and family members wandering in to see if you're finished yet, it has been a challenge to get the paper out, but always an enjoyable one."



Some of the OTN listeners do not have access to the Internet and whilst the OTN volunteers will continue to record from home, recently they have been able to reinstate their usual method - posting out the recorded paper to listeners on a memory stick.

One listener said:

"Imagine my delight when the wallet from the OTN came through the letterbox last week. I couldn't access the OTN online myself. Now I am independent again so I am very happy."

And that is what it's all about!

We are looking for more volunteers to record the talking newspaper. For more details and to hear the paper go to otleytalkingnews.org.uk

Otley Maker Space



Otley maker space continues to support the community, keeping the most vulnerable safe and helping our local businesses get up and running again.

Otley maker space has been acting as a hub for the community throughout the epidemic. Andi Petch explains: "We began with making visors and launching our go fund me appeal. As the virus spread, we built an army of sewers and cutters making scrubs. We further developed the range of PPE we offered by sewing face masks; after trialling several styles we have produced Olsen-style masks which have a pocket for the beeswax filters. Our latest addition is safety pigs which are used to open doors and press key pads."

Otley Maker Space has not only supported front-line workers but has made the project as inclusive as possible, delivering and collecting fabric/scrubs to volunteers who are shielding, thus enabling them to see a friendly face a

couple of times a week and allowing us to check on their physical and mental wellbeing while contributing to their community.

We are fortunate enough to have received large donations of fabric from members of the public and support from the Institute of Physics and Farnell who donated an awesome 3D printer and filament.

We are now focussing on keeping vulnerable people safe by working with Otley Action for Older People and the food banks in the area to ensure our face masks and safety pigs reach the people who need them.

Moving forward we have been working with Otley BID and Otley Town Council to help businesses and allied health professionals open their businesses again. We continue to support Otley and will continue to make scrubs, visors, masks and safety pigs while ever they are needed.

OTLEY COURTHOUSE ARTS AND RESOURCE CENTRE

For a week in July a rota of eighteen volunteers came into the Courthouse to paint, clean and do general maintenance in preparation for a 'phased' opening later in the year. Volunteers were socially distanced and all sanitising requirements were met.

During the months of compulsory closure, the Courthouse has offered several activities using social media, including storytelling, music, comedy and quizzes. Most staff have been furloughed.

Over the summer months the Courthouse will be offering online storytelling sessions from local storyteller Vickie Orton. For Heritage Open Day at Otley Courthouse on Saturday 12th September, Vickie will do two sessions of storytelling, one for children and one for adults. Stories will be based on real cases which came to court at Otley Courthouse in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. More details on the website and local press nearer the time.



Lots of people are asking when the Courthouse will open again! As soon as possible in the autumn, the building will open for small classes and groups to meet. Risk assessments have been completed and seating suggestions have been made to group leaders. It is also planned to show some films, including some from the series 'Exhibitions on Screen', in matinées and evening performances with limited seating. The films feature artists such as Van Gogh, Lucien Freud and Leonardo da Vinci, as well as composers such as Beethoven, Chopin, Haydn and Mozart. Further details will be available on the Courthouse website

www.otleycourthouse.org.uk and in the local press.

Any events scheduled for the autumn programme at the Courthouse which do not take place will be transferred to a date in 2021. Many thanks to all who have transferred their tickets already, who have made donations or supported the Courthouse in other ways at this difficult time.



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY OTLEY

Nature and local wildlife provided relief, joy and comfort for many people during lockdown. We are fortunate in Otley to live surrounded by countryside, with two nature areas on our doorstep, plus the river and some green open spaces. In a beautiful spring and a quieter environment people noticed the birdsong and wildlife around us.

Because of lockdown Wildlife Friendly Otley took its activities online and reported a big upsurge in interest in wildlife on its social media pages. It launched a daily 'Seen in Otley Today' commentary on plants, birds, mammals and insects.

Wildlife interest on the rise

More recently it has introduced 'Ask the Expert' to help people with wildlife queries.

We also produced our first Annual Report. Highlights included: The 'Where to see Local Wildlife Guide', fundraising success, school projects and campaigns for duck feeding, hedgehogs, rewilding and the #mywildlifepledge campaign. The biggest achievement has been to engage more people with the joys of wildlife and help them connect with nature so that they see how vital it is to value our wildlife.

For more information see www.wildlifefriendlyotley.org.uk or email us at wildlifefriendlyotley@gmail.com





GALLOWES HILL NATURE AREA

Gallows Hill Nature Area is a peaceful and increasingly biodiversity-rich location, situated along a stretch of the River Wharfe. The site has been owned by Otley Town Council since the late 1980's and was previously a sewage treatment works. Otley Town Council remediated the site in the early 1990's but the high fertility of the sewage sludge has left a legacy in the form of the tall nettles seen across the site during the Summer months.

Since the mid-1990's, the Friends of Gallows Hill group have undertaken conservation work and managed the site. Over the years, the Friends have planted hundreds of trees of various varieties across the site and many more have established naturally. As the site begins to mature, Otley Town Council have invested in improving access and the visitor experience to the site through footpath improvements, installing interpretation boards and new fingerposts so that everyone can enjoy the nature on show.

In early 2017, the first apple, pear and plum trees were planted in the Community Orchard and a Forest Garden featuring a diverse range of edible and other useful shrub and perennial plants was established. In addition, in early 2018 two new ponds were created to further support the biodiversity of this important asset for the town.

For more information about the Gallows Hill Nature Area and our volunteer days or to join the Friends of Gallows Hill please see the site noticeboard, visit our Facebook page or email the Chair: andrew.howarth@gallowshill.org.uk for details.

OTLEY CHEVIN ORCHARD PROJECT

The orchard is looking really great - dangerously professional. And thanks go to the Orchard's bees - seen here being cared for by the Wharfedale Beekeepers - for all their hard work in Spring.

Great news is that Leeds City Council have indicated juicing can go ahead and nearer the date Covid-19 related procedures will be addressed.

The all-important juicing dates are proposed as follows: Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October. On Saturday there will also be a display of local apples to help with identification.

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November. A later date than usual so Bramleys and other lates will be ripe and be ready for juicing. Please don't bring them to the earlier session.

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.

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



WHARFEDALE WORDSMITHS OFFER TREASURE TROVE OF VERSE

A group of local poets have taken inspiration from Radio 4's Desert Island Discs and created an online collection of their favourite poems.

The project was influenced by lockdown restrictions as much as the long-running programme in which celebrity guests choose their favourite songs.

The result is Poetry Keeps (poetrykeeps.uk), a website showcasing poems that have made a lasting impression on the group members.

Jane Kite, founder of Poetry Keeps, poet and publisher, said: "I had the idea for Poetry Keeps a while ago and when we were locked down it seemed the ideal time to get it going. It's fascinating reading everyone's choices of poems and the meaning of them in their lives and it's kept us all connected while we haven't been able to meet in person. All the participants are local poets and it's great to see the poems that matter to them and what has influenced their own writing."

Each Poetry Keeps member has their own section on the website with a list of their chosen works.

The title of each is linked to a poem on the page or a recording for everyone to enjoy. There is also an explanation of why the poem has been selected.

Poetry Keeps began in March 2020, at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, when members of the Otley Poetry Society Stanza group couldn't meet in person.

They have been discussing the project since and have invited some of their friends to take part, including Otley Town Poet Matthew Hedley Stoppard.

A number of the group have had full collections published and are competition winners, so they really know what they are talking about.

The participants in Poetry Keeps are: Angela Beese, Anne Maney, Ben Lowe, Bruce Barnes, Boltini, Brigid Webster, Gail Mosley, Helen Sellers, Jane Kite, Joanna Sedgwick, Jo Peters, Matthew Hedley Stoppard, Mike Baynham, Noel Whittall, Pamela Scobie, Rob Miles, Rosalind York, Ruth Kelsey, Sandra Burnett, Sharon Phillips, Simon Currie, Sue Butler and Terry O'Connor.



Visit poetrykeeps.uk to find out more.

PHGS Barbarians Boxing Day Fundraising

Otley RUFC have presented the proceeds of the fundraising efforts from the annual Boxing Day event to the Prince Henry's Rugby Fund and the Town Mayor's Appeal, dividing the total raised on the day of £2482.52 equally between the two.

The annual Boxing Day game is organised by Prince Henry's, Otley RUFC and Otlensians RUFC each year, to raise funds for a local charity, as well as PHGS Rugby, allowing the school to compete with some of the best independent and state rugby schools in the country.

PHGS Head of Rugby, Dean Hyam, said, 'This is always a fantastic day for the school with some brilliant rugby played, and we want to thank all the supporters, sponsors, players and members of Otley RUFC and Otlensians who make this day possible.'

In addition, Town Mayor, Peter Jackson, whose appeal is raising money for a community minibus, said, 'I was delighted to be a guest at the annual Boxing Day rugby community event. I would like to thank the many volunteers who gave their time to ensure this event was a success and the many residents who attended, as without them these fundraising events would not be possible.'



WHARFEDALE GARDENERS' GROUP
www.wharfedalegardeners.co.uk

COME AND JOIN US!

A LARGE, WELCOMING AND ACTIVE GROUP OF GARDENERS FROM THE BEGINNER TO THE EXPERT.

150 OF US MEET ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND MAY AT OTLEY METHODIST CHURCH, BOROUGHGATE AT 7.30 PM

SPEAKERS COMING UP THIS PROGRAMME INCLUDE.....

September PETE AND JULIE WILLIAMS - talking about "Shady Characters and Shy Maidens"

October JACQUI IDDON - giving us a practical demonstration on Christmas decorations from the garden

November KEVIN PRATT - showing us "Pictorial Garden Plants"

January JOHN GRIMSHAW - a Journey in search of Ungrowable Plants



Also, every summer, organized trips to see high quality local and regional gardens and nurseries.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY £14, INCLUDES ALL LECTURES, free tea, coffee and biscuits, PLANT AUCTION AND CHRISTMAS PARTY.

TO JOIN SEE THE WEBSITE ABOVE OR CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ON wharfedalegardeners@gmail.com

THERE MAY BE CHANGES TO OUR PROGRAMME DUE TO UNCERTAINTY WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE



OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY FUND

Singing in a Choir Makes a Difference!

Never more has music been so important for our health and wellbeing. Ask anyone who has sung in a choir what it feels like and the responses will all be similar: uplifting, rousing, positive, heartfelt...the list can go on. The medical profession and arts groups all have large amounts of evidence about the positive value of singing in a choir.

Otley Choral Society has now been singing in Otley for over 75 years. Members have enjoyed, and benefitted from, weekly rehearsals and performances that have raised feelings of both wellbeing and being part of a special community.

The choir will begin rehearsals once again, as soon as it is safe to do so. New members are always welcome. Visit our website or social media for up-to-date information. Otley Choral Society will be singing again on Tuesday evenings at Prince Henry's Grammar School!

BUTTERCROSS BELLES KEEP DANCING!

The Buttercross Belles dance at festivals and events around Great Britain but during lockdown we've had to be creative! This year the Ossett Beer Cart, held in June, was a virtual celebration. Morris dancers recorded solo performances which were then amalgamated for online viewing.

Folk music and dancing around the world has always adapted to reflect society yet maintain the strong music and dance traditions. Many Morris sides wear disguises but full-face skin tone makeup will no longer be permitted in order to ensure that we are fully inclusive and welcome everyone.

North West Morris, which the Buttercross Belles perform, developed from ancient rural dances to have meaning within the context of the industrial landscape of 18th-century Lancashire and Cheshire cotton mills. Our dances include mill bobbins and spindles and our figures or dance movements mirror the processes of spinning and weaving. Our musicians play a range of traditional instruments, some having enhanced features for busy street environments. We welcome any new dancers and musicians - no initial fees or costs. For further information please contact squire@buttercrossbelles.com



ASTRO TURF PITCH TO MOVE FORWARD

Following a year's pause while further ecological surveys took place, the community Astro Turf pitch at Prince Henry's Grammar School will be moving forward. Tenders have been secured over the summer, with the project seeking planning permission in September 2020, with a view to being in use from summer 2021.

"We are very pleased to be able to move forward with the project to build the pitch, with the support of our local partners. The ecological survey shows that the pitch will have a net biodiversity gain, as our planting and ecological plans mature, and local clubs are really excited about the prospect of having such a fantastic facility in Otley. The pitch will improve access to activity for young and old alike, increase opportunities for female sport, and will have real impact on the quality of facilities in Otley, going some way to bring us nearer to the opportunities which other people enjoy in their local area" said Dave Curtis, Faculty Leader in PE at Prince Henry's.



Community Education Programme to Go Ahead

The Community Education Programme at Prince Henry's will be going ahead this Autumn - but in a slightly different format. There will be courses online, and some in person, with special day workshops and courses in school holidays and at weekends.

"We have been consulting our tutors and current evening class students, working together to come up with a way to combine our Community Education programme with the full return of students to school in September. As a programme which takes place in a school, the current situation presents all sorts of challenges, but we are determined to begin a programme in the Autumn Term, one way or another!" said Christopher Lillington, Assistant Headteacher and Programme Director.

Details of the programme will be available on the school's website www.princehenrys.co.uk, under Community/Community Education. If you would like to be sent a direct email, email Pippa McPherson at mnp@princehenrys.co.uk



Volunteering at Otley Wetlands



The Otley Wetlands are an important nature reserve in the former gravel pits area north of the river. There are meadows and woodland, lakes and reedbeds for bats and deer, reed warbler and water rail, snipe and barn owl. Bitterns may pass, starlings murmurate.

The reserve has been here for nearly twenty years, but not many know it: access is for permit holders only. One way of becoming intimately acquainted with it, however, is through volunteering.

Nature requires work. The Wetlands are a prime area for orchids and dragonflies. Orchids need healthy flower meadows, dragonflies want open water and wind shadow. Both require managing tree growth, so there's work to be done. And there's always work keeping himalayan balsam away, and maintaining the reedbeds and woodland for warblers and butterflies.

If you want to know the Wetlands come and volunteer. Call Peter Riley, tel. 01943 862916.

Wharfedale Male Voice Choir

Like most of the Yorkshire Dales community groups, the men of the Wharfedale Male Voice Choir have had concerns about the Covid-19 "lockdown" and what it means to them and their concert organisers.

2020 held many bookings, all of which in recent months have had to be called off or cancelled, resulting in disappointments all round!

Nobody was more aware of this situation, and what it would mean to the choir and its future than our very own Otley-based Musical Director, Mr. Paul Hurst.

Paul's solution to the problem has been to organise a comprehensive series of rehearsals for sections to sing their parts separately via "ZOOM" thereby connecting with the widest number of members.

Rehearsals have been carefully staged, to enable 1st Tenors, 2nd Tenors, Baritones and Basses to meet separately for a chat and singing.



Wharfedale Male Voice Choir begin a series of "Zooming" Rehearsals

These preparations are in readiness for what they are all hoping will be a chance to engage in their planned concerts later in the year.

Wharfedalemvchoir.org
e-mail: pauljhurst@talktalk.net
Phone: Ivan Dunn 07704 716554

OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

Due to the continuation of the pandemic, we have had to make the decision to cancel this year's Otley Folk Festival originally planned for 18th-22nd September. This does not necessarily mean that we will not be marking the weekend in some way. If, nearer the time, we get some sort of green light, it may be possible to have an outdoor event or two. We will continue to plan for next year's Otley Folk Festival, which will take place on 17th-19th September 2021.

For further details please keep an eye on our website otleyfolkfestival.com

OTLEY FOLK CLUB

Because of the current coronavirus rules and regulations, it is not possible for us to re-start the folk club. By the time you read this, things may have moved on; we are eager to get back to the Black Horse and are looking forward to our Wednesday evenings. When we do get back, we will start with singers' nights before we begin to book artists. In the meantime we would ask you to keep your masks on and keep an eye on our website otleyfolkclub.org for the latest news.

ILKLEY & DISTRICT



retired persons, looking for new interests in a friendly social setting, to visit the website at ilkleyu3a.org for ways to join.

As the saying goes, 'it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good'. This is certainly true for many older citizens of the town for whom Covid-19 opened the door to a whole new world of virtual contact. These active members of Ilkley and District U3A, which includes Otley, discovered the magic of Zoom video conferencing to continue group activities from the security of their own living rooms, as demonstrated in this photograph showing members of the Crossword Group enjoying their regular get-together. The U3A even rolled out their traditional Summer Programme, featuring a variety of virtually attended themes. A comprehensive programme of group activities for the 2020/21 session is getting under way with a cordial invitation to semi or fully

MEMORIES OF WARTIME

A short documentary film featuring Otley residents recalling their memories of the Second World War has been produced by Mark Currie at Catapult Films on behalf of Otley Town Council.

'Memories of Wartime' has a running time of 25 minutes and has been released to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Japan (V-J Day) in August 2020. The film includes interviews with Doris Gagen, Geoff Adamson, Norah Hollings, Fritz Weiss, Christine Campbell, Frank Bowe, Nora Finlay, Jean Leach, Bryan Kitching, Janet Kitching and John Gibbon, plus audio recordings of John's father, James, who was a POW in the Far East.



There are tales of bombing, capture, gas masks, rationing, soldiers and prisoner of war camps. The film features archive film footage of the Normandy D-Day landings in 1944, courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, plus other film clips and photographs from the period.

As part of the same project, Dr Jason Knowles has written a short book, designed by The Yorkshire Wordwright. This new book describes Otley during the Second World War and features stories of individuals from this period. The book draws on people's personal stories, news reports from the time and archive material available from Otley Museum & Archive Trust, the Second World War Experience Centre and the Leeds Local Family and History Library. The book will be available to buy soon from local outlets.

To complement the film and book, Catapult Films has also created a series of audio stories from the interview material, all which you can see and hear at the Otley Town Council website: www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



CHURCH ON THE MOVE

The windows of 22-24 Westgate have been advertising it over the summer and, inside, building works - the supply of plaster permitting - have been quietly proceeding. What was the Barbers Tobacconists/Artamis Gift Shop is changing.

Bethel Church was founded in Otley 103 years ago. For all those years, it has had to rent premises - in recent years, the Chevin Community Centre on Craven Street - but it became clear that the needs of the congregation would be better met at a different location. With minimal internal changes the new premises will become a welcoming church and a centre for a range of community activities.

The church has had to be mindful of the location of the building within a conservation area and also recognise the listed building status of its frontage, which consists of three 18th-century cottages knocked into one about half a century ago. Care will be taken to reinstate the original style of cottage windows and preserve original and older features; a fireplace has been saved, for

example, but will need to be enclosed behind polycarbonate as the room in which it is found will be used by the growing number of young children in the church.

The change will keep the buildings in good order for many years to come, supporting the vibrancy of this area of the town when the need for retail space is in decline. It will, as the church develops its activities, bring more footfall back to the street, but in a manageable way. It will also support other community groups looking for a pleasant space to rent. The impact on neighbours from noise and activity will be minimal, but the benefits significant.

The church will organise an open day when the public can view the new meeting place. In the meantime, questions and enquires can be directed to Chris Haley, the church pastor, on chris@bethelchurchotley.org.uk, or you can follow the church on Instagram: [bethelchurchotley_](https://www.instagram.com/bethelchurchotley_) or on Twitter: [@BthlChurchOtley](https://twitter.com/BthlChurchOtley).

FREE CLASSES TO HELP YOU DESTRESS, RELAX AND UNWIND



Are you stressed? Has Covid left you feeling anxious and overwhelmed? Come and see if some relaxation will help you cope better.

I teach Dru yoga and meditation. I am offering four free classes via Zoom to anyone who needs a bit of calm in their lives, a bit of 'me time' to escape the world for a short time, recharge and reset. All you need is a device that will download Zoom - phone, tablet, laptop or computer. Everyone is welcome - no experience necessary.

We will do simple stretching movements for the body, focussed breathing for your mind and relaxation to help you let go of stress and feel calmer. Make it part of getting ready for bed.

Starting Wednesday 9th September 8.30 - 9.15pm
Book your spot Email: monafairholme@hotmail.com
Mob: 07534 006092. I look forward to meeting you.

AN ONLINE COUNCIL

Otley Council has gone online. Since the Spring, council meetings and project meetings driving the planning for the Welcome Back to Otley or Street Vision projects, for example, have all been held over internet-based meeting platforms. Whilst this parallels what is happening elsewhere, this has had particular challenges and interesting effects.

Until the Covid-19 lockdown, it was not possible to hold council meetings online; the law did not allow it. In April, however, as a response to the need for councils to keep meeting during the crisis, the government changed the regulations that apply to meetings taking place before 7 May 2021. Whilst there is a warning that the government may bring forward this date if medical and scientific advice leads to the relaxation of social distancing rules, it seems unlikely that things will simply revert to how they were before.

Council meetings need to be public events; not only are minutes public documents, but the public must be allowed to attend the meeting. In Otley, we encourage that. To organise that for an online meeting is trickier, but we were delighted to welcome two members of the public to speak, on the issue of Leeds Bradford Airport, at the start of the June Council meeting. They were able to listen to the rest of the meeting and were appreciative of the opportunity and complimentary about the way the meeting was conducted.

As part of the Council's Digital Strategy, we have been able to use the current situation as a useful experiment. Currently, we are looking into the possibility of streaming when we return to face-to-face meetings, thereby ensuring the widest possible access and inclusion. We welcome your views on the future and your participation in meetings.



**Otley Parish
CHURCH**

Otley Parish Church is so much more than a building and throughout these difficult months, when the church doors have been locked, we have continued to pray for and reach out to one another, to friends, relatives and neighbours, as so many other townspeople have been doing.

All groups and events were suspended or cancelled and we have all missed seeing the church filled with people, not just on Sundays for worship, but on Tuesdays at Open House, Wednesdays for Baby and Little Rascals, Thursdays for choir practice and bell ringing, and Fridays and Saturdays for our wonderful cafés, not to mention the daily stream of visitors who pass through for any number of reasons.

Worldwide, groups from every corner of the world have recorded a version of the Priestly Blessing from the Bible and if you haven't already come across it, it is well worth a listen. The words are as



follows and are our prayer for you, today and in the days that lie ahead:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace"
(Numbers 6 v 24-26)

Our weekly morning service has been streamed via Youtube every Sunday at 10.30am and remains available to everyone via our website www.otleyparishchurch.org where you will find lots of other useful information and all contact details.

Bridge Church Bicentenary



During this challenging time, the congregation of the Bridge Church is looking towards 2021 and making plans to celebrate the church's 200th anniversary.

The roots of the Bridge Church can be traced back to 1821 when a group of people first met for worship in the Assembly Rooms in Bondgate, Otley - the upstairs of what later became the Bowling Green Inn.



As the congregation grew it moved to a room at the back of the Black Bull and then to its current position on Bridge Street.

As well as offering Sunday worship and weekly activities, The Bridge Church enjoys being part of the local community and participates in many events, including the Carnival and the Victorian Fayre.

Our Bicentenary Year will be exciting and, whilst social distancing may impact on some of our events, we do know that we will be able to continue to share God's love within our community.

Town Mayor's News

As the Mayor, there are times when you feel extremely proud of your community, and this is one of those occasions, one I will remember for an exceptionally long time, due to our community spirit and the way we have all come together.

As a community, we have during the past few months endured a significant change in the way we conduct our daily regime, one I pray we will never see again. We have all missed visiting our loved ones, holding our grandchildren, going for family meals, and the list goes on.

Businesses have been forced to close, some unfortunately for good; however I am extremely proud of our community. We came together to help others where we could.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who ensured our elderly and vulnerable were looked after and neighbours helping each other through this crisis. I pay gratitude to The Yew Tree Public House, who although they had to close, ensured any elderly or vulnerable person had a Sunday lunch free of charge. Also, to the many shops that went above and beyond to ensure we all had our household necessities. This is true community spirit.

We as a community working together will see us through this awful time and Otley will be vibrant once again.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the Council Administration team who have continued to work from home helping to co-ordinate the volunteers and ensuring that Council business continued.



Photograph by Wigney Photography

OTLEY THROUGH TIME



All photographs sourced from Otley Museum and Archive Trust and feature in the book *Otley Through Time* which is available in Otley bookshops

CONTACTING YOUR COUNCILLORS

ASHFIELD WARD



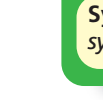
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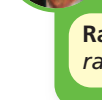


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WEST CHEVIN WARD



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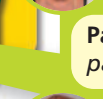


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MANOR WARD



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mary.vickers@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Paul Carter (Lib Dem)
paul.carter@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Penny Robinson (Lib Dem)
penny.robinson@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



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

LEEDS CITY COUNCILLORS

Should you wish to speak with Cllr Colin Campbell, Cllr Ryk Downes or Cllr Sandy Lay 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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS SEPT 2020 - DEC 2020

Policy & Resources	5th October 2020
Full Council	
Planning	19th October 2020
Community Development	
Policy & Resources	16th November 2020
Full Council	
Planning	23rd November 2020
Trade & Tourism	

Town Council meetings are usually held at the Otley Core Resource Centre, 11 Orchard Gate, Otley but due to Covid-19 the meetings are currently being held via Zoom video conference.

All meetings usually commence at 7pm but times and venues are subject to change.

Please check www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk or the windows at the Otley Core Resource Centre for meeting times.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

By prior arrangement with the Executive Officer members of the public may arrange to address a Committee or Council meeting before it starts its agenda. Please contact the Executive Officer on 01943 466335 or by email eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk for further details.

Please note that the Audit and Human Resources meetings are not open to the public.

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



NEXT EDITION

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