



OTLEY STILL TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS CRACKER



If there's one thing that Covid-19 can't cancel...it's Christmas. The festive period in Otley is traditionally one where the town really goes, er, to town thanks to our packed events programme, including the ever-popular Victorian Fayre and the Christmas Tree Festival. While they've had to be put on hold for 2020, the holiday season is still set to be one of great cheer in Otley thanks to the following events.

Otley Clap for Christmas and Lights Switch On

The festivities start at 7pm on Monday 23rd November with the switch on of the town Christmas lights, that will also be commemorated with a special one-minute Otley Clap for Christmas.

The event is intended to bring us all together for a minute, even if we have to be socially distanced in our homes or places of work. While the Spring's weekly Clap for Carers proved ever popular in its support of NHS staff and other key workers, stakeholders organising the Christmas version such as the Town Council, Otley BID, Otley Town Partnership and The Chamber of Trade are encouraging people to extend their show of support and gratitude beyond our wonderful carers.

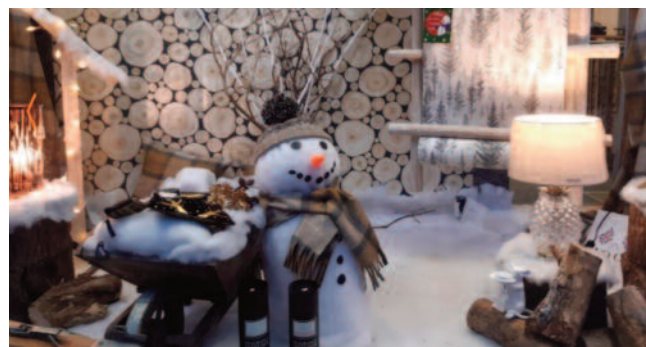
So whether you want to show your support of the NHS, give some appreciation to some of our businesses that remained open and provided a service during tough times, or simply remember a loved one, the event will offer the chance to bring the people you care about to mind at this special time of year.

Super Sunday Openings and Window into Christmas

Whether you're shopping for the Christmas table or for gifts to fill those stockings, Otley's businesses are offering two

extra opportunities to pick up goodies ahead of the Big Day thanks to two Super Sunday Openings – providing lockdown restrictions are eased. Held on 6th December (traditionally Victorian Fayre day) and 20th December (the last Farmers' Market of the year), shops will open their doors to give people more time to visit the shops.

Meanwhile, throughout December, Otley businesses will be going totally OTT as they attempt to outdo each other with their window displays for the year in the great



Window into Christmas competition. Each business is being incentivised to put their glad rags on their windows with some special prizes as an incentive. Town Mayor Cllr Peter Jackson will chose the worthy winners on Sunday 6th December. People visiting the shops will be able to take part too, thanks to a special Window into Christmas quiz. Keep an eye on the Visit Otley social media channels for details of how to take part.

Virtual Christmas Concert

Some of the best highlights of lockdown were the amazing performances that took place as part of the Otley Online Music Festival. Well the team are back for a special one-off Christmas performance on 4th December. The full line-up, put together by local musician and beer-brewing master Paul Briscoe, will be announced in due course. See <https://otleymusicfestival.wordpress.com/> for details.

The Otley Snowman Trail

It's back and promises to be better than ever – yes, it's the Otley Snowman Trail. Pick up a leaflet from one of the various outlets around town and follow the snowmen on

a trail around local homes and businesses throughout December until Tuesday 22nd December. Entry is free, but participants are encouraged to make a donation to Cllr Nigel Francis' preferred charity Hang on to a Dream. See <https://otleysnowmantrail.weebly.com/> for details and an entry form.

Visit Otley's 2020 Christmas video

In December each year, people around the world wait on tenterhooks in anticipation of the release of a well-known annual Christmas film – the one done by Visit Otley. What do the team have in store for 2020? You'll have to keep a keen eye on social media to find out!

Otley's Christmas Trees

The Christmas Tree Festival may be postponed to 2021, but that doesn't mean that Yorkshire's Christmas Tree Town will be resting on its pine-scented laurels. As well as the usual Christmas Tree in Market Place, Otley BID and the Chamber of Commerce have organised for businesses throughout the town to have their own mini trees to decorate. As with last year, all lights throughout the town will have a crisp, ice-white feel.



Free parking on Saturdays up to Christmas

To try and lighten the load ahead of the holidays, Leeds City Council has agreed to allow free parking in the town's car parks on the following Saturdays in the lead up to Christmas. Residents and visitors will be allowed to park for free at the Beech Hill, Courthouse Street and North Parade car parks on: 28th November and 5th, 12th and 19th December.

Here's to celebrating some Christmas Cheer in these challenging times.



MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

To mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan Day, a new book has been written by Dr Jason Knowles and published by Otley Town Council. The book was designed by The Yorkshire Wordwright with production by Print Crew, both Otley based.

The book '*Otley - Memories of the Second World War*' features a wide selection of photographs and is a story of individuals, families and the people of Otley in wartime.

When war was declared on 3rd September 1939, Otley had been preparing for the threat of air raids and gas attacks, but what would six years of warfare mean to the people of Otley?

This book draws on memories of Otley residents, personal stories, news reports and archive material.

This is the story of those who were there; of people who would never accept the possibility of defeat, who coped with rationing, blackouts, conscription and bombing, who welcomed evacuees, greeted Allied troops with hospitality and lived alongside prisoners of war on their doorsteps.

This book covers the story of wartime Otley, from the role played in the war effort by local industry and agriculture to those in the Armed Forces and Home Guard and eventually to the celebrations on VE-Day and VJ-Day.

A limited stock of this new book is currently available from Otley Core priced £13. You can order your copy by emailing admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk or via telephone 01943 466335.

Also as part of the project there is a short documentary film featuring Otley residents recalling their memories of the Second World War. The film '*Memories of Wartime*' has been produced by Otley-based Mark Currie of Catapult Films and has a running time of 25 minutes. A very limited stock is available to purchase from Otley Core priced £5.

Both the book and dvd would make ideal Christmas gifts for anyone with an association with Otley and an interest in the history of the town.



OTLEY FARMERS' MARKET

After a forced closure due to Covid-19 Otley Farmers' Market resumed in August.

With full safety measures in place, the market returned with its wonderful array of food and crafts. Lots of visitors came along to the first market and have continued to support it every month.

Stallholders were also delighted to be back and received a very warm welcome from their regular customers.

Steve and Julie Shearman of Church View Eggs said, "It's wonderful to be back, we have really missed it. Over the years our customers at Otley have become our friends and several of them rang us during the lockdown to see how we were which was lovely."

The Christmas Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 20th December.

For full details and dates for the 2021 markets, visit the website: www.yorkshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk



FRIENDS OF CHEVIN FOREST PARK

Well, not the year we'd expected! The various activities, like a picnic, forest yoga, bird watching, fungus walk etc have all had to be postponed due to the pandemic. But our good news is that we launched our new website - chevinforest.co.uk. Please take a look if you haven't already, and explore the new content. It's a more interactive website where you can download guides and walks and contribute to the blog. Our new walk on Danefield, developed with Otley Walkers, is there - try it out (and other walks if you haven't already!) We'll upload your photos and listings of wildlife you've come across. We've also introduced links to other local organisations that use The Chevin.

Winter on The Chevin brings new experiences! Have fun!



We are always keen to hear from you and please do get in touch with ideas and comments.

Please email: chevinforest@gmail.com

SOLAR PANELS FOR OTLEY LIBRARY

In an initiative led by Otley Energy, part of the Otley 2030 project, and supported by Otley Town Council and Leeds City Council, Otley library now benefits from a 30kWp solar panel system. The system, which gives the library a new source of renewable energy, is an important example of positive action toward the town and region's ambitions to be 'net-zero carbon' by 2030 to tackle climate change.

As part of the same project, Otley All Saints Primary School had solar panels installed in March in a project also funded by Solar for Schools who provide educational resources to students. The plan is for more local schools and buildings to

benefit from renewable power in the near future and Otley Energy and Otley 2030 will be fundraising to continue this important work.

Find out more and sign up to receive regular newsletters from Otley 2030 and Otley Energy at www.otley2030.com



OTLEY CHEVIN ORCHARD PROJECT



Well despite everything we have all had to deal with this year - with the agreement of Leeds City Council we managed to run several juicing sessions, with necessary safeguards in place. Positive feedback has been made about the appointment system, which is likely to continue in the future.

All our juicers, volunteers and customers seem to have gone home happy as the photographs and comments testify. Several people have already visited us twice this year with many newcomers keen to come back next year.

"THANKS for today! We had a lovely time juicing and can report that the end product is delicious!! Thanks for all the help and glad to support such a good initiative! Look forward to next juicing."

The project's aim to avoid food wastage by use of our juicing equipment is proving very popular, with numbers of supporters growing each 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)



OTLEY BENEFITS FROM LOTTERY GRANT

Leeds has been awarded £2.5m from the new £100m National Lottery Climate Action Fund, which supports community-led climate action plans, and Otley is one of the first four pioneer communities in the district to benefit.

Otley 2030, backed by Otley Town Council, will receive funding for a town centre community 'hub', which will provide a place for people from in and around the town and beyond to learn about the huge benefits of zero-carbon and sustainable living, and to play their part in designing a town that can support this. It will also pay for a coordinator to run the hub and to enable creative community engagement. A significant proportion of the Leeds fund will develop central resources and projects that communities like Otley can use as part of their plans.



Find out more and sign up to receive regular newsletters from Otley 2030 and Otley Energy at: www.otley2030.com



OTLEY SCOUT AND GUIDE CHRISTMAS POST

The Otley Parish Church Scout and Guide Parent's and Friends Association are sad to announce the cancellation of the Christmas Post this year. We felt unable to provide our usual service, whilst following Covid risk requirements and keeping our customers and helpers safe. We would like to thank those members of the community, and businesses and organisations, who support us every year by buying stamps and sending their Christmas cards with us. We also wish to thank the fantastic shops and services who help us every year, and were willing to do so again.

We are extremely grateful to Otley Lions, who always have a post box in their bookshop and this year have donated £500 to our Association to help cover the lost income.

We sincerely hope to be able to run the service again next year, and look forward to your support.

Older people's hub revamp



Work has commenced on a project to create a 'future-proof' hub for older people in Otley.

Otley Old People's Welfare Committee and Otley Action for Older People have been working together on plans to revamp the town's Old People's Welfare Centre, on Crossgate. This project will be supported by funding from Otley Town Council's Investing in Otley Fund and a loan from the Public Works Loan Board, as well as other funders.

The scheme will include a complete refurbishment of the centre's downstairs, creating an accessible, ground floor office for the charity and disabled toilets and introducing energy efficiency measures to massively reduce the building's carbon impact.

MAYOR'S NEWS

It has been a very trying few months for all residents and business owners in Otley.

I want to say a big thank you to everyone in our Town. Throughout our communities, our staunch spirit and determination to help has been shown by people of all ages, from the hard work being done by our key workers to the sensible, positive attitude residents are showing in this most unprecedented and worrying of times. Through serving you as a councillor, and having got to know a lot of residents, it is no surprise to me that, when faced with a situation such as the coronavirus pandemic, everyone has pulled together in the most spirited ways.

It has been extremely hard for many businesses, particularly the hospitality sector, as we in Otley have witnessed a couple of establishments close.

Our local organisations and charities found great ways to reach out to the community. Please keep supporting them where you can. It will make such a difference, particularly when they do so much for the more vulnerable members of our community.

I would like to thank the Otley Town Council administration staff, our Town Caretaker and the staff who work in our public toilets for their determination to keep Otley safe and continue conducting business under extreme pressure.

Which just leaves one more thing to say – I wish you a Merry Christmas and as we move forward to 2021, I thank you again, for helping each other, and adhering to the advice given. Working together we will recover and once again make Otley a vibrant town for all residents, businesses and visitors.



Photograph by Wippeny Photography

OTLEY WORK CLUB

Otley Work Club has served the community for eight years, meeting twice monthly in the Core on Orchard Gate. We have now reached the point where we must review our value to the community and the network of support we relied so heavily on over the years.

We have always been a group of individuals with diverse and expert skills, learning from each other and the experiences shared by our clients. Essentially, we ran the Work Club to share with the Otley community our knowledge and experience. It is regrettable that we have concluded the Work Club is now closed.

There are many factors of change that have caused us to conclude we are not able to continue the service. Change within DWP, Otley Town Council, IT upgrades and pandemic restrictions have all contributed to our decision. We thank the Town Council and its Officers and the DWP for the support we have had over the years, without which Otley would not have had the service we freely gave to the community.

To those of Otley and surrounding areas who have benefited from our service, we trust we have helped you positively with our advice, CV writing and interview practice. We sincerely wish you all well and hope you continue in employment following this hard time of the pandemic.

A busy few months...

We hope you have enjoyed the barrier planters we planted in the Spring? We think they helped to keep our spirits up in these challenging times. Many thanks to the many locals and businesses who have helped to water them and keep them looking fresh.

Can anyone give us a hand? We have updated our webpage: www.otleyinbloom.co.uk/blog/otley-bloom-maps/ which now shows the OIB bird box map, OIB large sites map and the Leeds City Council sites map. Have we missed any of the bird boxes? Please drop OIB a note using messenger on our FB page or email otleyinbloom@gmail.com

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month (via Zoom at the moment) Contact us for more information: www.otleyinbloom.co.uk or via our Facebook page 'Otley in Bloom'




Otley in Bloom

OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

Despite more lockdowns in the pipeline, we are being positive and planning for next year's Otley Folk Festival which will be 17th - 19th September 2021.

At the end of September, we had the very sad news of the death of one of our founder members, Derek Haller. Derek was a great supporter of folk music and he was a regular at the Otley Folk Club. It was thirty-two years ago that he asked us to organise a meeting to see if we could stage a town folk festival. A dozen or so folk fans met at the Yeoman, and we decided to go ahead with festival number one. We had no idea that it would still be going thirty years later. Derek was a great fan of sea songs and we incorporated a 'sea song session' in to the very land-locked Otley Folk Festival. He continued to be an active part of the festival until a couple of years ago when he started to take more of a back seat. We will all miss Derek and he will be well remembered at future festivals.

For the very latest festival information visit: www.otleyfolkfestival.com



OTLEY COURTHOUSE BOUNCES BACK

Otley's Arts and Resource Centre has been one of the first small venues in the country to begin to reopen. As soon as regulations allowed it began to organise a range of events and room hire opportunities and continues to look for new ways to get back to normal. Film, Classical Music, talks, Folk Music, Science Fair events have taken place through the autumn and more is on offer through the winter.

Film - Otley Film Society has put its usual membership scheme to one side to become responsible for the Courthouse's film programme - so the films are open to all (and tend to sell out). Future screenings (all on Thursdays at 7.30pm) include:

3rd December	Pain and Glory
17th December	Peanut Butter Falcon
19th December	Dralion Cirque du Soleil 3pm
22nd December	Frozen 2 2pm
7th January	Harriet

21st January	Woman at War
4th February	La Belle Epoque
18th February	Yesterday



Other events

As Otley Matters went to press other events were being finalised, but you can expect the usual range of high-quality comedy, music and talks - with the occasional streamed event thrown in. With the continued uncertainty we won't, at the moment, be producing our usual twice-yearly printed programmes but for up-to-date information you can check: otleycourthouse.org.uk



Wildflowers to help Wildlife

Looking to the future, Otley in Bloom and Wildlife Friendly Otley have joined forces to convert the BT Exchange garden on Charles Street into a wildflower garden.

Members of both groups conducted a socially distanced working party in September to seed the 80 square metre area. First they turf-turned strips of grass, using a machine from Otley Hire Centre, then sowed many varieties of wildflower seeds.

Jane Smith of Wildlife Friendly Otley said, "We want to convert unused plots like this into wildflower gardens across Otley. As well as looking colourful they will be havens for insects and pollinators which are so vital for nature and wildlife. We'd like to thank BT for allowing us to make a wildflower garden on their unused green space."

Bill Austin of Otley in Bloom said: "It might look a mess now, but come the spring new shoots will emerge to flower throughout the season and then drop their seeds. The whole process will begin again, forming a wildlife-friendly area right in the centre of town. If Otley residents would like to see more wildflower zones like this, please let us know. We need quiet areas of grass and the landowner's permission."

Send suggestions to wildlifefriendlyotley@gmail.com or otleyinbloom@gmail.com

Photo caption: left to right: The socially distanced joint working party at the BT exchange garden.





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

It was with much regret that Wharfedale Gardeners' Group had to cancel the talks booked for September to November, and the Christmas party. Because of the size of our group, socially distanced meetings would not have been possible.

At the time of going to press, we cannot say what will happen after Christmas. We do have a programme of talks arranged, but we don't yet know whether these will go ahead. Current members will be kept informed by email and all information will be on our website. For further information, email wharfedalegardeners@gmail.com

In normal times, the Wharfedale Gardener's Group meet at the Otley Methodist Church on the second Tuesday of the month from September to May, with December being the Christmas party. Garden visits are organised over the summer.

Let us hope that we can get back to normality soon. In the meantime, enjoy your gardens, a source of joy, even in winter.

OTLEY FOLK CLUB

Since the Otley Folk Club closed in March, we have been monitoring the Covid-19 situation, hoping for a solution to the problem. With more cases being identified, it looks unlikely that we will be able to restart any time soon. Thinking positively, we have started talking to artists about performing at Otley next year. We will put together a programme for 2021 and will try to open as soon as we safely can. Until then please stay safe and follow the guidelines.

Our website is www.otleyfolkclub.net



Otley Choral Society

During this harrowing pandemic 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 impact of singing.

Otley Choral Society has been singing in Otley for over 75 years; members enjoy, and benefit from, weekly rehearsals and performances that have raised feelings of both wellbeing and being part of a special community.

Currently, following guidance, choir is on hold, but rehearsals will begin once again, as soon as it is safe to do so. The choir is hoping that there will be a rescheduled performance of Handel's wonderful Messiah on 13th March 2021 at the Parish Church.

Visit our website or social media for up to date information.



OTLEY PUB CLUB



What a difficult time it's been for everyone! Notwithstanding the hurt and sorrow felt by those who have lost loved ones during this awful time, the fate of Otley businesses has probably never been so badly affected. Here at Otley Pub Club we're committed to promoting, and preserving where possible, Otley's fantastic range of pubs. We truly have something for everyone within our 22 hostleries, and whilst we naturally concentrate on pubs, we continue to promote Otley as a *#FamousPubTown*, with the objective of promoting all aspects of Otley nationwide. All of our businesses, whether retail, commercial or leisure, benefit from a thriving pub scene....and we certainly have one of the best in the country. Efforts made by our publicans during and after the lockdown period have been tremendous and great thanks should go out to all involved for creating a safe and harmonious social environment for all to enjoy.

Public Art on Church Lane

Otley Business Improvement District (BID) has teamed up with local artist Molly Walsh to brighten up a wall along Church Lane. Molly, who studied illustration at Falmouth University, was asked to create a mural that reminded residents and visitors of the Japanese Garden which used to be behind the Parish Church at the turn of the century.

Katie Burnett from Otley BID and owner of Courtyard Planters said, "I'm delighted with the mural, there is lots of evidence that art in public spaces is very good for making us feel better about where we live and ourselves. You need to spend a little time

looking at the mural as Molly has captured some classic images of Japanese gardens with a bridge representing a journey, the totemic rocks representing the pillars of Buddhism, lanterns leading the way to enlightenment and even a smiling Buddha. The Japanese view their gardens as a very spiritual place, and tend to follow very strict design principles - it is really fascinating, the more you look the more you see."

You can see more of Molly's art on Instagram [@m.walshs](https://www.instagram.com/m.walshs) and she can be commissioned to create art for you too.



ROYAL WHARFEDALE MASONIC LODGE HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR THE WELFARE CENTRE

People often wonder what Freemasonry is all about. Here is an example of what we do.

We had a request from Otley Old People's Welfare Committee to assist in raising money for the refurbishment of their centre in Crossgate. We were very pleased to be able to assist by donating £20,000 towards this good cause, which will be of benefit to the older people of the town and surrounding areas.

Freemasonry is a well established organisation which was founded over 300 years ago and has provided financial assistance to many local bodies working for the betterment of the community at large.

Pictured is Trevor Backhouse, the Charity Steward from Royal Wharfedale Lodge, with two of the trustees of the Welfare Committee, Laurence Bentley and David Wilkinson. This photo was taken pre-lockdown.



OTLEY ARTS CLUB



Even though we are sadly unable to meet at the moment our members are staying in touch through a regular newsletter and continuing to get creative, with many also taking the opportunity to try out some new mediums and styles. Here are a few examples of what our members have been producing. To see more of our members' work, take a look at the Facebook page 'Otley Arts Club'. You can contact us through our Facebook page or by emailing otleyartsclub@hotmail.com members can be contacted if you would like to purchase or commission a special gift.



Otley Action for Older People has been very busy over the last two months re-opening their social groups and restarting their trips and outings. Many of their members were keen to get out and about again after being stuck inside for so long. Some reported feeling less able to get around independently, which has resulted in more requiring one-to-one support. Thankfully there are lots of volunteers on hand to support the weekly events. At present the art group, Tai Chi class, Zumba classes, Indoor Bowling, Thursday lunch club and Friday coffee mornings have all restarted. Whilst things look a bit different these days there is still much fun to be had. Covid-19 restrictions have meant that social groups are smaller due to social distancing requirements; however, the charity has been able to create extra sessions in order to accommodate everyone who wants to get out and about. If you would like to join in with the over 60's activities then please call 01943 463965.



HELP THROUGH THE PANDEMIC OTLEY NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Otley Youth and Community Centre is a new charity working to support the community of Otley and the surrounding areas. We work alongside Otley Town Council, the Food Bank, Churches Together in Otley, Otley Courthouse and Otley Action for Older People.

Throughout the pandemic we have been working together to mobilise the support that many people have needed e.g. food deliveries, befriending, help to get to medical appointments etc. This has been organised through existing and new volunteers.

As the pandemic goes on we are keen to ask the views of people in Otley about what the needs in the community might be as time goes on. We need to know if there are needs which are not being met and how our network could help with these – as well as how life has been so far for you in this time of crisis.

Please complete this survey online - it won't take long!
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SF8DM7B>

Or complete the paper version below – your views are much appreciated.

Completed surveys can be sent to, or left at:
Community Survey, Otley Town Council, Unit 11 Orchard Gate, Otley, LS21 3NX.
or returned to any of the organisations mentioned above.

OYCC Community Survey - 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic has affected us in so many ways and we are keen to find out what needs there are in the community that OYCC and other organisations or charities could help with.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SF8DM7B> or complete on paper below. Your views are much appreciated.

Q1 Do you know of any community needs that are not being met?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes – what do you think are the most important ones?

Q2 What support could be provided to help with these?

Q3 Social distancing has meant that many people have had to turn to online ways of communicating such as zoom video – is this something you have done?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No, but I would like to learn

Q4 It has been clear that the pandemic and lockdown have affected the feelings and mental health of many - can you think of any ways in which people can be supported through this?

Q5 Have you received any community support during the lockdown?

Please tick the ones that apply below:

- ☐ Social contact from Otley Action for Older People or similar organisation
☐ Support from a church
☐ Otley Food Bank
☐ Help with shopping
☐ Befriending
☐ Help getting to health appointments
☐ Other – please say what

Q6 One of the positive aspects of lockdown has been neighbours looking out for and after each other - is this something that we can build on as a community?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes – what do you think are the most important ones?

Q7 Can you tell us a little about how the virus and lockdown have affected you?

Q8 Some are saying that life after the pandemic should not go back to 'normal' – are there any ways in which you think life should be different?

Q9 Can you tick what age group and gender you are please?

- ☐ Under 18
☐ 18 to 25
☐ 26 to 35
☐ 36 to 50
☐ 51 to 65
☐ 66 to 75
☐ 76+
☐ Male
☐ Female

Q10 Would you be willing for us to contact you in order to follow up on any of the questions? If yes, could you leave a first name and email address or phone number, please?

First name

Email

Telephone

Completed surveys can be sent to, or left at:
Community Survey, Otley Town Council,
Unit 11 Orchard Gate, Otley, LS21 3NX
or returned to any of the organisations mentioned at the top of this page.

OTLEY BUSINESS AWARDS 2021



The Otley Chamber of Trade are delighted to announce that nominations are now open for the 2021 Otley Business Awards. Businesses have had a challenging year and we would love you to nominate your favourite Otley businesses for the Best Retail, Best Newcomer, Best Service Sector, Best Eatery, Best Pub/Bar, Good Service Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award. We also have a new category this year, the Covid-19 Community Award, where you can nominate a business that has contributed to supporting the Otley community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Place your nominations by visiting www.otleychamber.co.uk before 10th January, and watch this space to find out the winners.

Businesses are also able to nominate themselves for the Environmental Award and Best Apprentice/Trainee awards. Our friends in Otley in Bloom are going to be awarding a Best Kerb Appeal Award to one lucky business as well. Results will be announced on Friday 19th March.



The picture attached shows Ish from Otley Mobiles being awarded the Good Service Award in 2020 (taken before social distancing measures were introduced!)



Walkers are Welcome!

Winter is here – let's go for a walk! In dark times nothing beats a beautiful winter's day walking. We're lucky in Otley to have so many paths and rights of way in the Yorkshire farmland, hills and moors on our doorstep.

Walkers are Welcome offers four leaflets for 10 walks in total: Otley Four Walks: circular walks from Otley, 2 to 6.5 miles; Otley Four More Walks: two circular walks, 4 to 8 miles, from Otley, and two linear from Ilkley (8 miles), and Bramhope (6.5 miles).

With Friends of the Chevin we published two leaflets for the Chevin Forest Historical Trail (East, 2 or 2.7 miles, and West, 2.5 miles). And, of course, there are our guidebooks for the 36-mile Welcome Way, and the 38-mile Six Dales Trail to Middleham.

All obtainable from The Bookshop on the Square and Mounseys. More information on Otley Walkers are Welcome can be found at: www.wawotley.org.uk



OTLEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



The Otley Annual Achievement Award showcases the work of hardworking individuals within the town by recognising both a young person and an adult who have achieved something outstanding – be it academically, musically, sporting or artistic – overcome some form of adversity or helped to make a difference in the local community.

If you know of anyone who has achieved something outstanding or made a significant contribution to our town during 2020 then we would like to hear from you, by nominating them now for the 2020 Otley Achievement Award.

This award celebrates achievements made during the year with the winner recognised with a cash prize and a certificate.

To nominate someone please complete and return a nomination form available from the Otley Town Council website or email a request to community@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Covid-19 Emergency Awards

Otley Town Council wishes to reward the efforts made by individuals and groups to support the local community during this exceptionally difficult time.

The awards are open to anyone and there are no restrictions about who may be nominated or the number conferred. The winners will receive a certificate, to be presented at the 2021 Town Annual General Meeting.

If you know of a person or a group who has made a significant contribution to the welfare and support of Otley residents during the Covid-19 emergency, please complete and return a nomination form, available from the Otley Town Council website or by e-mail from community@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The deadline for nominations is Friday 12th March 2021. Please return all nominations to Jason Knowles at The Core or by e-mail to community@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Westgate School

This summer, Westgate Primary School has been able to install covered cycle and scooter storage, thanks to a community grant from Otley Town Council. Children and staff now have easy access to all-weather storage for their cycles and scooters. Head teacher Helen Carpenter said, "It's more important than ever, for our health and the environment, that more of us choose sustainable ways to travel. As a school, we are committed to

doing as much as we can to address the climate emergency, and these shelters will support more families to make that choice, whatever the weather. They have also helped to double our storage capacity for cycles and scooters and without the Town Council's grant this would not have been possible." Thanks also go to Dale Tucker Construction Ltd for installing the racks and shelters.



CHILDRENS CHARITY MOVES TO OTLEY

The Forget-Me-Not Trust was established in 1987 when David's daughter, Debbie Warrington, sadly died days after her 21st birthday from a terminal illness called "Mitochondrial Myopathy".

A group of bikers (Hells Angels!) raised £456.60 for Debbie by completing a sponsored bike ride to Holland. Debbie insisted all the funds raised should be used to help other sick children. Debbie chose the charity's name in memory of her brother Paul who had died of the same illness at the age of 17.

The charity, now based in Otley, aims to provide terminally ill or chronically sick children in YORKSHIRE with treats and morale boosters.

Examples of fundraising/sponsorship events have been duck races, weekend charity walks, pig race-BBQ's, tribute nights, cycle races, Tough Mudder challenges, dance marathons and afternoon teas. We can only continue the work we do with the generosity of people like you.....

The Forget-Me-Not-Trust, Newby House, West Busk Lane, Otley LS21 3LY. Tel: 07901 942230. Reg Charity no;297853

The Bridge United Reformed Church



The Bridge Church has spent the last two years supporting the Joanna Project who work with vulnerable, hard-to-reach women who are trapped by life controlling addictions or prostitution with all the exploitation and danger that involves. Covid-19 did not stop our fundraising, and during lockdown Chris Beckwith raised just over £2,000 with his sponsored exercise bike ride.

Next year, 2021, is the 200th anniversary of the Bridge Church in Otley. We have lots of plans to celebrate this bicentenary; however, at the moment they are on hold, as are our Christmas Activities.

We commenced limited worship services during the autumn, and these will continue in some form, if possible, abiding by any government recommendations.

More information and updates can be found on our website www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk or on our Facebook page 'Otley Bridge Church'

HONORARY CITIZENS



Otley Town Mayor Cllr Peter Jackson is pleased to issue a call to the townsfolk of Otley to nominate candidates for Honorary Citizenship.

The Mayor said "Honorary Citizenship is the highest acknowledgement that the town can give to those who have performed exceptional, committed service to the community for a period of many years. The list of Honorary Citizens is distinguished and only those who have provided exemplary service achieve such status".

There is no form to fill in; nominations should be in the form of a supporting letter and sent to the Executive Officer, Otley Town Council, Otley Core Resource Centre, Unit 11 Orchard Gate, Otley, LS21 3NX not later than midday on Friday 12th March 2021.

If there are any queries please contact the Executive Officer at the above address or by telephone 01943 466335 or email: eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

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



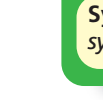
Kim Holmes (Lib Dem)
kim.holmes@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Gareth Dibble (Lib Dem) t: 07951 254927
gareth.dibble@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Peter Jackson (Lib Dem) t: 07979 438284
peter.jackson@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

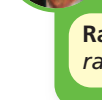


Sylvia Thomson (Lib Dem)
sylvia.thomson@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

PRINCE HENRY WARD



Colin Campbell (Lib Dem) t: 07973 521547
colin.campbell@leeds.gov.uk



Ray Smith (Lib Dem) t: 07946 800946
ray.smith@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

DANEFIELD WARD



Mick Bradley (Green) t: 01943 467871
mick.bradley@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Nigel Francis (Ind) t: 01943 463467
nigel.francis@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Ray Georgeson (Lib Dem) t: 07711 069433
ray.georgeson@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Twitter: @RayGeorgesonL

WEST CHEVIN WARD



Richard Hughes (Lib Dem) t: 07885 219520
richard.hughes@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Linda Hoare (Lib Dem) t: 07931 281862
linda.hoare@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

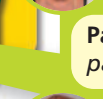


Jo Allen (Lib Dem) t: 01943 461899
Jo.Allen@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

MANOR WARD



Mary Vickers (Lib Dem) t: 07751 309276
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

ALLOTMENT RENT BILLS 2021

Rental bills for 2021 will be sent out in late December and should be paid by 31st January 2021.

Please note that bills will be sent out via email for all allotment holders who have registered a current email address with us. It may not be too late to register your email address; just send Karen an email at admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk giving permission for the Council to store your email address and we will send out your bill electronically.

Due to COVID-19 we would ask that, where possible, bills are paid via bank transfer, details of which will be included in your bill. Please note we do not accept card payments at the present time.

If you have decided not to renew your tenancy for 2021 will you please let Karen Smith, Allotment Manager, know as soon as possible on 01943 466335 or admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk to avoid being billed for the coming year.

We hope working your allotment has provided you with an enjoyable escape in these difficult months and send you best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS DEC 2020 - FEB 2021

Planning 11th January 2021
Environment & Sustainability

Policy & Resources 25th January 2021
Full Council

Planning 22nd February 2021
Community Development

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



Christmas Greetings
Otley Town Council would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2021

NEXT EDITION

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