



Otley Flood Alleviation Scheme Under Way

Wetter winters, drier summers and more extreme rainfall linked to climate change means that the risk of flooding, both on a global and on a regional scale, is increasing over time.

The reality of climate change, and the increasing chances of catastrophic flooding as seen during Storm Eva in 2015, has called for drastic action, and which is one of the reasons why Otley Town Council and Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019.

The Otley Flood Alleviation Scheme (Otley FAS), along with other major flooding schemes across the city, plays a key role in our response. Its objective is to reduce flood risk to previously affected properties whilst building resilience to climate change.

Led by Leeds City Council, in partnership with the Environment Agency, WSP, and BAM Nuttall Mott McDonald joint venture (BMMjv), the £4.2m scheme involves construction of an embankment running parallel with Billams Hill and management of vegetation on the islands downstream at Otley Weir.

Together these measures will increase flood protection to 53 properties near to Wharfemeadows Park, reducing the risk of flooding to a 4% chance of occurring in any given year. Currently, the area has a 20% chance of flooding.

Contractors BMMjv started construction at the site on Billams Hill in March, with works now fully under way. The work is split into three phases and is expected to be complete by November 2021.

Access to Otley Sailing Club will be maintained throughout construction but will at times be via a diverted route. The public right of way footpath (Otley 5) has temporarily been diverted and will move to its new permanent route in June as phase 1 is completed. These diversions are shown in the plan below.



Timeline of the Project

Phase 1, March - June: Construction of a new culvert (pipe) and outfall into the river for the new alignment of Kell Beck, groundworks to build the embankment, installation of sheet piles and construction of an access ramp.

Phase 2, June – September: diverting watercourses to their new alignment, construction of retaining walls and remaining piling and embankment activities.

Phase 3, Late Autumn: Landscaping.



Keeping in touch

Receive the latest updates on the Otley FAS by signing up to our newsletter. Subscribe by visiting www.leeds.gov.uk/otleyfas or by calling 0113 378 7304. Postal copies are also available on request.



What you can do to reduce your risk

The climate emergency means we cannot prevent all flooding. The good news is that there are some simple things you can do if the worst happens.

Knowing what to do in a flood could help keep you and your family safe and save you thousands of pounds in damages and disruption.

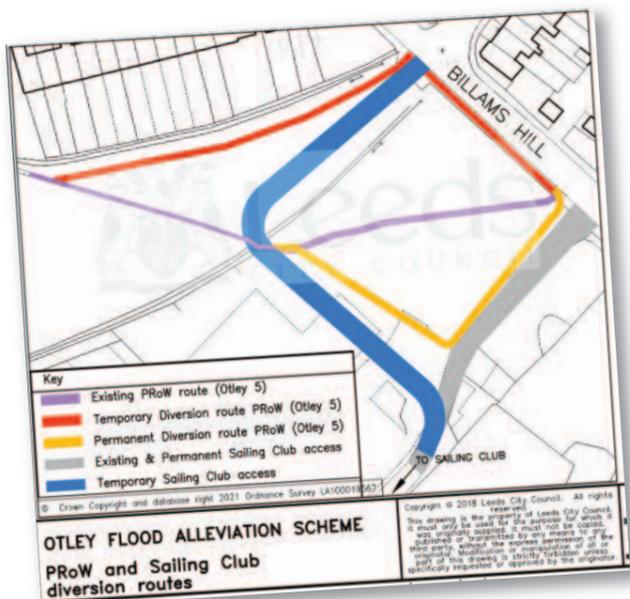
Actions you can take include:

- Register with the free flood warning service provided by the Environment Agency;
- Know what items to move upstairs to safety;
- Learn how to turn off electricity, gas and water supply;
- Have a bag of essentials ready to go (i.e. medicine and insurance documents);
- Ensure you have a supply of flood barriers to stop water from entering your property. Sandbags can be bought from DIY stores or you can make your own from tied rubble bags filled with water.

You may also consider long-term protection for your home. The Yorkshire Flood Resilience website has a range of downloadable resources to help you build your property's resilience.

Useful links

Please visit:
[Leeds City Council flooding advice](#)
[Environment Agency flood risk advice](#)
[Yorkshire Flood Resilience](#)



Otley Walking Festival: 26th June - 4th July, 2021

It's looking very hopeful for the Otley Walking Festival 2021. This year's community-led Festival – our twentieth – will be organised in compliance with any Covid-19 restrictions in place at that time. With around 45 walks and events over the nine days of the Otley Walking Festival, there really is something for everyone. Catering for all abilities - short town-based walks, meadows and field paths, strenuous moorland hikes, including old favourites and new themed events. The Festival showcases the wonderful variety of Wharfedale countryside we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep – and which we have all valued so much during this past year!

Most walks will require booking – check the programme carefully as turning up on spec will not be possible for all walks this year.

Thanks to our wonderful team of volunteer walk leaders and local sponsors.

Latest updates at www.otleywalkingfestival.co.uk



Summer Bands in Leeds Parks



We have planned the full series, including the usual two concerts at Wharfemeadows Park, Otley, but are keeping a close eye on the roadmap. We didn't want to announce the dates at this stage in case things change, but for the full details of the series, keep an eye on our website www.leedsconcertseason.co.uk

For more information please call 0113 378 6600 or email music@leeds.gov.uk



24th - 26th September 2021

We all know how much Otley loves a festival, and Otley 2030 wanted to come up with an event combining community engagement, climate action, and a celebration of all the kindness that has been flowing through our town during the pandemic.

So, we decided to run a Festival of Kindness, with three themes: Kindness to Ourselves, Kindness to Others, and Kindness to the Planet. We are working from two fundamental principles; to attract people who wouldn't normally come to festivals with a wide range of activities, and to give Otley's young people - who have sacrificed so much to keep us safe - a major role in planning this festival.

Many people have already come forward to help, and we are filling up our time slots, but we still need help with event management and, crucially, help from people who enjoy writing grant applications!

Email hello@otley2030.com, check out our social media or sign up for regular newsletters at www.otley2030.com

NEW START FOR LIVE MUSIC IN OTLEY

A number of well-known Otley venues have come together to form the Otley Music Alliance (OMA) to bring live music back post-lockdown and promote the town as a live music destination. Currently, OMA comprises the Courthouse, the Black Horse, Woolpack Music Studios, the Rookery, Otley Taps, together with Otley Town Council and several community activists.

As its first initiative, OMA is organising a weekend of live music events called 'Otley Live' running from Friday, 30th July to Sunday, 1st August. There will be a mix of genres to appeal to all tastes and the organisers are keen to showcase local talent, especially young musicians. Further details on line-ups will be available soon on 'Otley Live' social media (facebook, instagram, twitter) and the Visit Otley website.

Family Fun Cycling

Come along to shake off the Covid blues and join in this fun event for all the family! The Family Fun Cycling event is from 10am to 3pm on Sunday 4th July at Garnetts Field, close to the River Wharfe. It is organised by Otley Town Council with partners Otley Cycling Club and Chevin Cycles.

- Children can test their skills on the designed cyclocross grass course.
- Parents can try out a hybrid electric bike on an easy route across the flat field.
- Short guided rides on quiet safer cycling routes around Otley in small groups.
- Activity tent making models using 'wotsits' - fun for all ages!
- Stalls, free merchandise, hot drinks.

Bring your own bike and helmet (compulsory for children). Before you start, bikes will be checked over by a Chevin Cycles mechanic. Bring a drink bottle and snacks. See you there!



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING

By volunteering you are giving up some of your time to help others and to play an active role in our thriving local community. Anyone can volunteer. It is very rewarding and is a great way to meet new people, gain new or use existing skills, get experience and make a big difference to your community. There are lots of easy ways to give your time to help others - from having a cup of tea with an elderly neighbour, to helping out with local groups and events or making a regular commitment to volunteer with a charity or community group.

In Otley we are very fortunate to have a strong vibrant community spirit with a wide range of groups and events for the whole community; however, these can only thrive and be sustained with your help and volunteer support.

Some examples of the volunteering opportunities in Otley include:

Otley Courthouse Arts Centre Email: volunteer@otleycourthouse.org.uk

Otley Museum and Archive Trust Email: otleymuseum@btconnect.com

Otley and District Talking Newspaper Email: info@otleytalkingnews.org.uk

Otley Action for Older People Email: info@otleyactionforolderpeople.org.uk

There are many events throughout the year in Otley that need volunteer support. If you are interested in assisting at:

Otley Christmas Lights switch-on and Otley Town Crier Competition

Email: admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Otley Victorian Fayre Email: enquiries@victorianfayre.co.uk

Otley Carnival Email: otleycarnival1@gmail.com

Otley Vintage Transport Extravaganza Email: info@ovte.co.uk

Otley Show Email: admin@otleyshow.org.uk

There are also numerous volunteer groups working to keep the town natural, clean and colourful. If you are interested in working on improving the town environment then please contact:

Otley in Bloom Email: otleyinbloom@gmail.com

Otley Litter Picks Email: linda.hoare@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

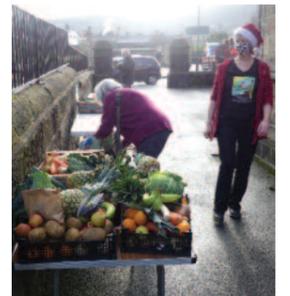
Friends of Gallows Hill Email: andrew.haworth@gallowshill.org.uk

Friends of Chevin Forest Email: chevinforest@gmail.com

Otley 2030 Visit: www.otley2030.com

Please get involved in your community by volunteering.

All information in this article was correct at the time of writing. Please note there are many other groups/organisations, events and charities in Otley who also need volunteer support.



OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

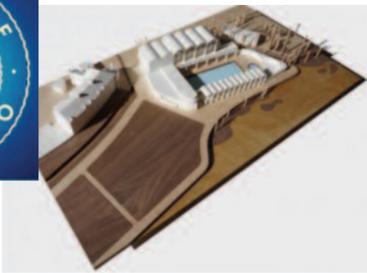
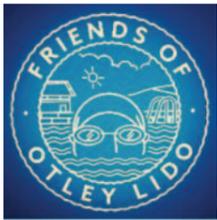
At last we have something positive to look forward to. The Otley Folk Festival is planning to go ahead on the weekend of the 17th to 19th September.

Obviously we will have to adhere to regulations on social distancing, hand sanitizing, mask wearing etc. We will draw up a plan nearer the time with rules and regulations to ensure everyone is safe.

Our big day will be Saturday with concerts at the Parish Church, sessions and street entertainment. As well as a host of local folk talent we welcome back fab folk trio Grannies Attic; they will be appearing on the Saturday.

Keep an eye on the website www.otleyfolkfestival.com for regular updates and additions. We hope you all have a lovely summer and let us hope that by September with the help of the vaccination programme we will be able to meet safely and have a great weekend.

THE FRIENDS OF OTLEY LIDO – determined to bring the Lido back to life



The past year has been challenging for all community groups relying on fundraising and public events. For the Friends of Otley Lido, it's meant that the project to restore the lido was paused even though the group has continued to meet virtually and plan throughout the year. Now it's full steam ahead with the community volunteers determined to raise the required funds to take their plans to Leeds City Council and bring the project one step closer to reality.

Plans are ambitious but realistic and very exciting for Otley. The aim is a sustainable state-of-the-art outdoor heated swimming pool. Visit their site at www.otleylido.com and Facebook at www.facebook.com/FriendsofOtleyLido.

We need your help. Can you assist our fundraising events or volunteer to join the group? Or make a donation towards the funding target? Help make a big splash for our community!



Otley Squash Club Re-opening

Otley Squash Club (OSC) is a members club which is located in the car park of Otley Rugby Club.



Following government COVID-19 guidelines we are due to fully re-open on Saturday 21st June following an internal refurbishment and a deep clean for safe play.

We have an active membership across all age groups and welcome new members. We run regular competitions and internal leagues and play inter-club team matches. We also provide weekly group coaching for Juniors by qualified club coaches; squash racquets and balls are provided.

Squash is recognised as one of the best activities for cardiovascular exercise and can be played all year round, daytime or evening, whatever the weather. Other health benefits include that it reduces stress, sharpens hand-eye coordination, and improves overall agility.

If you are interested in joining OSC or just want more information, contact otleysquashclub@gmail.com or visit www.otleysquashclub.co.uk.



Calling all PHGS Past Rugby Players!

Prince Henry's Grammar School is establishing a Rugby Alumni Association for anyone who played the game at the school and membership has already reached 200 members!

Members will receive an annual newsletter about the game at the school, with information on fixtures, achievements and any representative honours. In addition, the group, chaired by Pete Latham MBE, is looking to arrange reunions in the future - when circumstances allow.

They will also receive a 'History of Rugby at PHGS' booklet which details past coaches, players and famous teams over the century that Rugby has been played at the school.

It is free to join for all ex-PHGS Rugby players. Anyone wishing to join, please contact Chris Smith at stc@princehenrys.co.uk, for a GDPR-approved form. It would be fantastic to hear from you!

EAST OF OTLEY ACTION GROUP



Otley and Otley Community Land Trust amongst others, as well as local citizens, and experts in relevant fields.

Earlier this year, in response to the potential housing development on the outskirts of town, a new community group called the East of Otley Action Group (EOAG) was set up.

The group is open to all Otley residents, and they would love as many people to get involved as possible. It brings together representatives from groups such as Otley 2030, Wildlife Friendly

By spring 2021, the group had already become formally constituted and had engaged with the Otley East development consortium and with hundreds of local residents. They had raised thousands of pounds for legal advice, organised litter picks, surveys and a public meeting. They had also created a useful website, designed to support Otley residents through the planning process, and are selling beautiful merchandise, designed by local artist Kate Broughton.



OTLEY CHAMBER OF TRADE

Otley Chamber of Trade have installed a new President - Simon Reybould the owner of Print Crew. Pippa Ridley from Etempa Web Solutions is the new Vice President and Andrew Hargreaves from Westbourne Catering the new Junior Vice President.



Dawn Hargreaves has also taken on the role of leading us on our way with social media.

The Chamber's plan for the year is to maximise the networking within the Chamber and encourage businesses to help our neighbours. The new President will be creating new positions for area representatives to feed back ideas and information to the Chamber in general.



We wish the new team every success.

Used Crisp Packets Recycled into Survival Blankets for Homeless



A brilliant way of recycling empty crisp packets and helping homeless people has begun in Leeds and needs your help.

Sarah from Otley joined the Leeds Crisp Packet Project after seeing it on social media. The project gives new life to single-use plastic by re-using crisp packets to make things such as survival sheets, pillows, bivvy bags and dog beds which are then shared with homeless people in Leeds through the Hidden Homeless Leeds group. The cleaned crisp packets are fused together with an iron and covered in non-recyclable plastic to make it waterproof.

The original project started in Hastings in November 2019 and there are now 40 local groups stretching from Hastings to the Highlands of Scotland, as well as a small number of groups in Canada, Australia and Europe.

The Leeds Crisp Packet Project would welcome any volunteers who would like to have a go. They also need;

- Empty crisp packets, preferably washed
- Clear plastic sheeting from large delivery items
- A base to store and accept donations

If you can help in any way, you can find more information on CPP Leeds Facebook page or email cppleeds2020@gmail.com

OTLEY CHEVIN ORCHARD PROJECT

Our youngest volunteers yet!

This one is a sweet damson but other helpers planted several apple trees too.

Covid restrictions? Didn't hold us back one bit. Within all guidelines we (with massive help from the Chevin Forester Team and the Wharfedale Wallers) were able to tidy up the hedge line and create a fantastic walled terrace planted predominately with cider apple trees. Sadly it will be several years before we can sample the hard stuff.

Go and have a look- it's almost looking professional. You'll be able to see our new lambs too.

Fingers crossed for a bumper harvest and we look forward to seeing you all at the autumn juicing.

Keep up to date on our Facebook page [@otleychevinorchardproject](https://www.facebook.com/otleychevinorchardproject)



Otley Action awarded National Lottery funding

Otley Action for Older People is delighted to announce that their application to the National Lottery Reaching Communities fund has been successful. The charity initially applied in February 2020, but the application was put on hold following the COVID-19 outbreak.

The project, called "Let's Enable Otley" (LEO), has now been awarded £199,346 over four years to fund a new Volunteer Engagement Officer post and supporting activities.

This project will allow Otley Action to consolidate their current activities (using volunteer and community resources) and use staff time to focus on core support. This is an increasing part of their service as referrals continue to become more complex and require the skills, knowledge, and dedication of experienced and qualified members of staff. This increased capacity will help them to identify people's needs at the earliest opportunity and to put in place strategies which may considerably reduce the risks associated with ill-health, loneliness and frailty.



LEEDS CAVITY WALL INSULATION



Leeds City Council is now offering free cavity wall insulation to help homeowners living in a cold home to save money on their energy bills.

Insulating a property reduces the amount of energy needed to heat it, reducing fuel consumption and helping to protect the environment.

Across Leeds, almost half of the city's carbon footprint comes from heating and powering buildings.

Cavity wall insulation takes just hours to install but could save Otley households up to £135 per year, based on estimated figures provided by the Energy Saving Trust.

To qualify, you will need to have a total household income of no more than £30,000 or receive income-related benefits. A quick survey will also need to be carried out on your property.

The work is carried out by trained installers and is covered by a 25-year guarantee.

For more information, please contact Better Homes Yorkshire on 0800 5971500 or visit www.betterhomesyorkshire.co.uk/leeds

Ultrafast Fibre Broadband For Otley

Virgin Media ultrafast fibre broadband rollout is starting soon in Otley. This will cover the majority of the town. Please expect some disruption on roads and footpaths during the works. New broadband packages will be available from late Summer.

For more information please contact the helpline on 0333 000 5925 or email expansionworks@virginmedia.co.uk

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Drivers of electric vehicles in Otley can now enjoy fast charging at Beech Hill car park, thanks to six new charging bays. Leeds City Council has secured funding from the national Office of Zero Emission Vehicles to install 15 dual fast-charge points across the city, including the Beech Hill site.

Three dual fast-charge points will be installed at the car park, enabling up to six plug-in vehicles to charge simultaneously. More than a third of Leeds' carbon footprint comes from transport emissions; however, electric vehicles emit no pollution whatsoever from their exhausts.

By switching to electric vehicles, drivers can help Leeds to tackle climate change and create cleaner, healthier air.



What's On at Otley Courthouse

Friday 9th July 8pm

Emma Johnson's Gravy Boat

A contemporary jazz quintet led by Leeds-based saxophonist and composer Emma Johnson. Emma's writing displays a contemporary sound rooted in infectious melodies and the group have been described as demonstrating a "strong and joyful bond, immediately apparent in their sound". Gravy Boat is a band that aspires to write and perform melodic, accessible jazz that anyone can enjoy.

Tickets are £9

Friday 16th July 8pm

Keith James, The Music of Yusuf/Cat Stevens

Keith James is a well respected and inventive guitarist singer/songwriter who specialises in performing intimate, carefully researched biographic-style concerts. He weaves the story of Cat Stevens' life from his early pop career, life-threatening illness and spiritual journey around a performance of his well crafted and memorable songs.

Tickets are £13

Friday 23rd July 7.30pm

Carl Hutchinson - Is Allowed to Play Out Again

Just like everyone else, Carl has been shelved for the last twelve months. He is now delighted to return to the Courthouse and offer an hour of brilliant stand-up comedy, indoors, socially distanced, in a mask that's been sanitised, or whatever the rules are this week. Join Carl as he does what he does best in a celebration of comedy returning in the UK!

Tickets are £12

Saturday 7th August 8pm

Jon Palmer Acoustic Band

The Jon Palmer Acoustic Band are making a welcome return to Otley Courthouse in 2021. This will be the sixth successive annual gig by the "folk, roots, and rock n' roll" band and all of the previous events have been totally sold out! We suggest you book early for this one.

Tickets are £10



We look forward to welcoming audiences back to the Courthouse soon, following the Government's latest announcements. Please be aware that forthcoming events may have specific conditions of entry attached in order for us to operate legally and safely. These will be dictated by changes in regulation and agreed industry best practice and will be clarified once we receive clear guidance from Government and industry bodies.

Thank you for continuing to support Otley Courthouse.

Films at Otley Courthouse

As we start to open up again (fingers crossed) plans are well advanced to bring film back to Otley Courthouse - in an appropriate Covid-safe manner.

Movie Matinees return in June - with films starting at 2pm, and tea/coffee available from 1.30pm.

Thursday 10th June - Harriet - From her escape from slavery through the dangerous missions she led to liberate hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad, the story of heroic abolitionist Harriet Tubman is told.

Thursday 15th July - Little Women - With a stellar cast and a smart, sensitive retelling of its classic source material, Greta Gerwig's Little Women proves some stories truly are timeless.

Thursday 12th August - Judy - Led by a deeply committed performance from Renée Zellweger, Judy captures the waning days of a beloved performer with clear-eyed compassion.

Otley Film Society is also planning a full season of films from September (with maybe a taster before then).

You can always find out more on what's on offer by emailing otleyfilmsociety@gmail.com and asking to be put on their mailing list, or by keeping an eye on the Otley Courthouse website.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AT PRINCE HENRY'S



After a year in which the Community Education classes at Prince Henry's had to go online, the school hopes to return to a full programme of in school evening classes in the Autumn of 2021. As ever, they are looking for suggestions from local people for new classes which they might like to join.

"As with everyone else, we've had to adapt to circumstances, and have been running a reduced programme of mainly language classes online. In September, we hope to be back with a bang, with our usual offering of over 50 courses, covering languages and hobbies, running in school. If you have an idea for a course or a suggestion of a tutor who might like to join us, then please get in touch on info@princehenrys.co.uk and we will do our best to run the course." said Assistant Headteacher Christopher Lillington, Programme Director.

Otley in Bloom

The various lockdowns have shown the importance of our environment on our state of mind. Otley in Bloom is a small group of volunteers who love gardens and gardening. We have done our best to replant and tend the planters, tubs and flowerbeds, making sure our town looked inspiring during the long winter months.

We have singularly, and in 'allowed' groups, litter picked. We have virtually met each month and liaised and consulted with other local environmental groups. We have managed to post beautiful floral images on our Facebook page, daily. Now, as summer approaches, all the seedlings and plants are blooming and we need more help, to keep up with it all. We have some exciting projects planned for the future and funding in place, but we need your help.

Please drop Otley in Bloom a note using messenger on our Facebook page or email otleyinbloom@gmail.com



WHARFEDALE GARDENERS' GROUP
www.wharfedalegardeners.co.uk

Like many groups, Wharfedale Gardeners have had very little activity this year. We managed a Zoom talk by Martin Fish in April, and a Buttercross plant stall in May, but we are hopeful that things can get back to near normal in September.

For the last few years we have held our meetings at Otley Methodist Church, but because of structural work we will not be able to return. We would like to thank them for their past hospitality. We have, however, been fortunate to secure a regular booking at the newly refurbished Beech Hill Church (Bethel Church) on Westgate, formerly the Artamis shop. We are able to have our regular second Tuesday of the month slot and will begin the season on 14th September with a 'welcome back' get-together, and a talk by Ben Preston, on Inspirational Gardens to Visit.

For further information contact the Membership Secretary at wharfedalegardeners@gmail.com or visit our website.

WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Summer is here – let's go for a walk! Let's go out in the sunshine again. Walking is the best way to enjoy our countryside and keep fit at the same time – certainly now with the sun shining and restrictions hopefully lifted.

Walkers are Welcome offers leaflets for ten walks in total: *Otley Four Walks* and *Otley Four More Walks*. And 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).



Then there's the 38-mile Six Dales Trail to Middleham. And recently published: a new edition of the Welcome Way, the 36-mile circular walking route connecting the Walkers are Welcome communities of Otley, Burley in Wharfedale, Bingley and Baildon across moors and fields.

All obtainable from *The Bookshop on the Square* and *Mounseys*.

For more information visit: www.wawotley.org.uk

Otley Sewing Collective

Little did they know when they put out the call a year ago for volunteers to help sew scrubs for an NHS falling apart at the seams, that a year on they would have a group of 50 women and men who have worked tirelessly in support of the community.

Andi Petch, Chair of the Otley Sewing Collective explains "Since beginning our journey as part of the Maker Space to the fledgling group we are now we have used 1,838 metres of fabric, made 612 sets of scrubs and 700 face masks and given 6,311 hours of volunteer time.



"The group created a banner commemorating how the town came together to support the community during the pandemic. The hearts contain the names of the sewers and makers who made the PPE and the famous Otley Maker Safety Pig who has been located in Scotland, Brighton and even Australia! The balloons contain the names of the organisations that benefited from our joint efforts and of course the community of Otley. Some volunteers and organisations did not want to be named publicly and we have free hearts that recognise them anonymously. One of our sewers created this and is one of those who wishes to remain anonymous. But the work speaks for itself.

"The group had so much fun they decided to continue and formed the Sewing Collective. For many joining the collective has enabled them to get back into sewing, to meet new people, learn new skills and generally reawakened their love of needlecraft.

"We are now working with other groups in Otley, to support events in the town and to develop new projects. We are a very friendly open group and will meet weekly once the lockdown restrictions are lifted".

If you are interested in sewing and would like to develop and share your skills, come and join us. Membership is free and open to anyone.

Otley Sewing Collective can be contacted through their Facebook page @OtleySewingCollective or by emailing Andi ajfpetch@gmail.com

The Buttercross Belles

When the pandemic struck, the Buttercross Belles of Otley initially resorted to dancing solo at home. However, after ten months of twiddling our toes, we realised we needed to improve our fitness levels in readiness for dancing out. We readily agreed to Zoom classes created by our marvellous dance teachers, Sue Latham and Serena Hardman, and accompanied by our fabulously patient band leader Izzi Wade on violin with support from Gill Johnson on melodeon.

After a few Belles took part in Morris Federation Zoom sessions we were invited by the Lancashire side Malkin Morris and the Roughlee Ruffians to consolidate those dances via Zoom. Also invited were Belfagan of Cockermouth (who we've collaborated with previously) so we comprised three sides from three counties all dancing solo in our kitchens - what must the neighbours think?

We learned 'The Nelson' which is a traditional East Lancashire dance plus 'Lockdown' a new socially distanced dance created by Chinwude Morris of Warwickshire. These are sure to be firm favourites when we are free to dance out again: roll on 21st June!

We practise in Otley on Thursday evenings. New dancers and musicians are always very welcome: contact squire@buttercrossbelles.com



ILKLEY & DISTRICT



U3A COMES STORMING BACK

After a year when Covid restrictions forced activities online, the u3a is emerging ready for summer. To mark U3a Day in June, the charity will have a stall at the Saturday market at Otley Buttercross on 5th June when the public will be invited to talk to our Otley ambassadors and enjoy a musical celebration.

During the summer there will be a programme of events with Zoom talks and activities before face-to-face meetings hopefully start in the autumn. At £13.50 for a year's membership, giving access to over 130 activity groups throughout the Ilkley and Wharfedale area, the u3a provides good value for money. Aimed at those who are retired, unwaged or semi-retired, the u3a offers something for everyone including sports, languages, science, culture and the arts.

For more information look online at ilkleyu3a.org.uk or find us on Twitter and Facebook.



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY OTLEY LAUNCHES BIGGER AND BOLDER WEBSITE



A bigger, better and bolder website all about wildlife in and around Otley has been launched by community group Wildlife Friendly Otley. The existing site has been redesigned and expanded to include several new attractions, such as a new Kids Area and enlarged sections on news, advice and detailed information for anyone wanting to know more about the varied wildlife in and around the town.

Popular items such as the *Seen in Otley*, *Species of the Month* and the *My Pledge for Wildlife* campaign have been redesigned plus the addition of a new section about the proposed East of Otley development which will impact on local wildlife.

Otley based design and communications agency, The Yorkshire Wordwright redesigned the whole site and made it more attractive and easier to navigate.

"The site will help our aim for Otley to be a very wildlife friendly town," said group co-founder Andrew McKeon, who encourages people to explore the site to find lots of wildlife to enjoy at www.wildlifefriendlyotley.org.uk



Wayzgoose jump for joy about new logo for Maypole unveiling

Local folk dancers, Wharfedale Wayzgoose, have commissioned an artist to create a new logo for the resurrection of a local landmark.

The Border Morris side will see their new logo added to the crown of Otley Maypole, which was removed after falling last September.

The traditional team's signature bird now appears perched on crossed sticks to mark a new era of May Day dancing in the town.

Jude Caldwell, Squire of Wharfedale Wayzgoose, said: "I'm delighted to know that, when circumstances finally allow us to dance again, we can go forward into the future with our new logo, safely mounted on the refurbished Maypole crown, and with renewed hope for the continuation of Wharfedale Wayzgoose. We anticipate many more years as full of music, dance and joy as the last 27 years, since our formation, have been."

Anita Walker, Foreman (lead dance teacher) of Wayzgoose, added: "I've been dancing with Wharfedale Wayzgoose since we formed in 1994. We have always had the goose as our logo, but I love the new updated image. It will be great to see it on our new badges and know that it's on the crown of the new Otley Maypole."

The new Maypole will stand next to Otley's original "Cross on the Green" Maypole, which is one of the tallest and oldest in the UK.

Wharfedale Wayzgoose began in 1994 and have joined fellow local Morris dancers the Buttercross Belles to celebrate May Day each year since the smaller Maypole was installed in 2002.

During the 27 years they have been dancing, Wayzgoose have appeared on BBC's *Flog It!*, performed at Warwick Folk Festival and Shrewsbury Folk Festival – where they upset Billy Bragg for being too loud – and have also danced in Jane Austen's garden!

Their new logo is designed by Otley-based artist Sylvia Too and will be added to the other emblems on the original Maypole crown when it is reinstated.

Wayzgoose are currently recruiting dancers and musicians who may want to try something different following a year of mostly staying indoors. For more information visit their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WharfedaleWayzgoose

Photo caption: Wharfedale Wayzgoose members (L-R) Anita Walker, Malcolm Hill and Jude Caldwell at the "Cross on the Green", Otley



PHOTO CREDIT: Simon Carey

WASHBURN HERITAGE CENTRE



Washburn Heritage Centre re-opened the Tea Room on 17th April, and is open every Saturday and Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm.

The service will be outdoor table seating only, in a secure and Covid safe environment, to comply strictly with Government regulations until restrictions are lifted further.

We look forward to welcoming you back!

Please visit www.washburnvalley.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

MALE VOICE CHOIR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Wharfedale Male Voice Choir have made their own roadmap to escape the lockdown.

During the dark and difficult times the members have been meeting regularly on Zoom to socialise and to sing in the privacy of their own home. Full rehearsals have not been practical because the technology does not extend that far but Secretary Peter Roberts says "These gatherings have been such a lifeline particularly from a social point of view. Many of our choristers are of advancing years and contact with colleagues in this way has been invaluable."

Zoom sessions will continue until the country is free of Coronavirus restrictions and all choir members are encouraged to gather at The Red Lion in Burley in Wharfedale on 21st June for a friendly pint or cup of coffee.

Regular rehearsals will resume immediately after the AGM on Monday 6th September.

For further information please contact Secretary Peter Roberts on 01943 463456 or Chairman Ivan Dunn on 01943 608050 or 07704 716584.

Chevin Discovery Day!

Otley Nature Network, an alliance of local nature and conservation groups, are holding a day of activities this summer based around the White House on the Chevin. On Sunday 22nd August between 10am and 4pm, people will be able to learn more about the Chevin and its wildlife. There will be the opportunity to join in a variety of fun, free activities suitable for all ages. Groups involved include Friends of Chevin Forest, Wildlife Friendly Otley and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The aim is that it will be a fun way to explore the Chevin, discover new skills and enjoy spending time outdoors with the whole family. Watch out for more details nearer the time. Contact: neil-griffin@outlook.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021



To celebrate International Women's Day 2021, Otley Women Together were very pleased to welcome Baroness Judith Blake, first woman Leader of Leeds City Council, to talk about her career in politics so far and her hopes for her future role.

Baroness Judith Blake has recently been elevated to the House of Lords and has stood down from the Council after more than five years in the Leadership role. She took her seat in the Lords on 25th March, when she was sworn in as Baroness Blake of Gledhow in the City of Leeds.

The theme of International Women's Day 2021 was 'Choose to Challenge'. Baroness Blake has helped to challenge male dominance of politics and has encouraged equality in local government. At this well attended online event, she gave lively and interesting answers to the questions put to her by Pat Dixon from Otley Women Together, and said she was looking forward to representing the interests of Leeds in the Lords.

Otley Women Together is an informal group, created, with the help of a grant from Otley Town Council, to mark International Women's Day in 2016. Since that time it has hosted many speakers and events of interest to women and men of all ages and interests. Otley Women Together would like to thank Otley Courthouse for support in holding this event.

Town Mayor's News

As I look back on my term as your Mayor, I am immensely proud to have served this great town of ours.

During my first year, in 2019, our town was vibrant and we had a calendar full of events to entertain everyone and bring visitors to Otley. That came to a sudden halt with the national lockdown and all events cancelled from March 2020.

During the period of lockdown I have witnessed the strength of our community as teams of volunteers and key workers from all sectors worked hard to ensure the vulnerable and elderly had essentials delivered. Finally, we are beginning to see our town becoming vibrant again.

There are many people I would like to name to express my gratitude for their support and service not only to me as Mayor but to the town. I would like to thank all the Council administration team for keeping the Council business going under extreme difficulties. I thank my fellow councillors for their support and trust in me as Mayor. It is my greatest pleasure to hand over the Chains of Office to Cllr Sylvia Thomson as your new Mayor.



Photograph by Wimpenny Photography



PRICKLY PIGS

Prickly Pigs Hedgehog Rescue is a self-funded rescue centre here in Otley. We take in sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs and return them back to the wild once they are fit and healthy. Despite our initial intention of being a small rescue centre, in 2020 we took in just short of 150 hedgehogs.

Unfortunately, hedgehogs are now classed as vulnerable to extinct so we all need to look out for, and protect, our prickly friends. If you see a hedgehog out in the day then it usually means it needs help straight away. Use gloves to pick it up and put it in a high-sided box and get in touch with us on 07434 626832.

There are lots of ways you can help hedgehogs; creating a hedgehog highway between gardens, raise netting 20cm off the ground, build a ramp in your pond, make a feeding station and put out wet cat or dog food and cat biscuits, but please don't leave out mealworms, and please check before strimming.

If you want to find out more information then visit our website www.pricklypigs.co.uk or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.



CONNECTING A COMMUNITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Otley 2030 will celebrate its second birthday in July. We have already achieved so much in our first couple of years: from solar panels on Otley Library and local schools, to the school holiday veg box delivery scheme, to establishing links with an indigenous tribe in the Amazon, to organising September's upcoming Festival of Kindness and helping to set up the East of Otley Action Group.

And this is just the start. To make the next steps towards a carbon net-zero, inclusive and sustainable town by 2030 we want to engage the whole community. With the support of Otley Town Council (one of the first councils to declare a climate emergency) we'll be looking to engage with local people to create a deeper understanding of the community's priorities and to build collaborative projects to help us achieve the 2030 vision.

Find out more at www.otley2030.com and follow us on social media. To get involved, email: hello@otley2030.com

100 SWIFT NEST SITES AND COUNTING

It's Summer and our Swifts are back with us once more. Keep an eye skywards and your ears tuned in for our Swifts as they scream around our houses. You may also see Swift Watch volunteers patrolling your streets monitoring known nest sites and looking for new ones. So far we have identified 100 buildings in Otley that have nesting Swifts. If you recently received a letter from Otley Swift Watch then rest assured we know where your Swifts live, but if you have nesting Swifts and think we may not already know about them - please contact richardmarsh25@yahoo.co.uk



'Look! They're back! Look!'
And they're gone
On a steep controlled scream of skid
Round the house-end
And away under the cherries.
From Swifts by Ted Hughes.

IMAGES FROM OTLEY'S PAST



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

Tom Featherstone (Lib Dem)
tom.featherstone@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

Richard Davies (Lab)
richard.davies@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

WEST CHEVIN WARD

Richard Hughes (Lib Dem) t: 07885219520
richard.hughes@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Linda Hoare (Lib Dem) t: 07931281862
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 (resigned); Cllr Sylvia Thomson (Deputy Town Mayor); Cllr Ray Georgeson (resigned); Cllr Peter Jackson (Town Mayor); Suzanne Kidger (Executive Officer - resigned); 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 JUNE 2021 - AUGUST 2021

Policy & Resources Full Council	7th June 2021
Planning Environment & Sustainability	14th June 2021
Human Resources Audit	21st June 2021
Planning Community Development	12th July 2021
Policy & Resources Full Council	19th July 2021

All Town Council meetings are held at the Otley Core Resource Centre, 11 Orchard Gate, Otley. All meetings usually commence at 7pm but times 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* September 2021 edition please contact Jason Knowles for the editorial date in early July on 01943 466335 or email: community@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk