



GET READY FOR AN OTLEY CHRISTMAS ADVENT-URE

Otley residents and visitors should gear up for a real **Otley Advent-ure** this festive season.

Plans for this year's holidays include the Christmas lights switch-on, an Otley Advent calendar with things to do and prizes to win, the ever-popular Otley Snowman Trail, Super Sunday shop openings, carols around the town on major shopping days, a Santa's Grotto and much, much more.

At the heart of the festive fun will be Otley's annual Christmas song and video that will get its first airing at the low-key lights switch-on ceremony on Monday 29th November in Market Place.

This year, the film will feature an original composition written by Jennifer Pugh and Richard Sabey of Otley's Woolpack Studios. The song, *'Christmas In a Northern Market Town'*, will encourage people to go out and explore Otley over Christmas, finding new adventures and creating new memories along the way. It will be accompanied by this year's Christmas film that will feature a host of things to do in Otley over the Christmas period.

The song is also the starting point for the **Otley Advent-ure Advent Calendar** that you can find on page 2 of Otley Matters and online at www.visitotley.co.uk/otley-adventure. The calendar features 24 suggestions for the whole family to try over Christmas, from walking among the holly on the Chevin, to feel-good activities such as making a donation to a local charity.



Anyone who submits their advent calendar* stands to win £100 or a Cooplands Bakery Christmas Hamper filled with their full range of Christmas products. The prize draw will be held between Christmas and New Year.

While some of the town's larger events such as the Victorian Fayre and Christmas Tree Festival are again subject to a Covid-induced break, some Otley festive traditions such as a visit to Santa at Stephen H. Smith's Garden Centre and following Councillor Nigel Francis's Otley Snowman Trail (www.otleysnowmantrail.weebly.com), will still be taking place and are also included on the Advent-ure Calendar.

Otley's fabulous eclectic selection of independent and national shops will naturally come to the forefront at Christmas and there will be two extra shopping days on Sunday 5th December (traditionally the day of the Victorian Fayre) and 19th December, which is also the last Farmers' Market of the year.

On these and other weekend shopping days over the holidays, there will be performances by a selection of the town's choirs in and around the town centre. A full schedule will be released on the Visit Otley website events section.

Sundays throughout December, meanwhile, will also see the fabulous Bay Horse Court Bazaar taking place with a number of crafts stalls, Christmas carols and all manner of Christmas cheer.

Shoppers, meanwhile, will once again be able to get an early Christmas gift with the town's paid-for car parks at Beech Hill, Courthouse Street and North Parade offering free Christmas parking to shoppers on Saturdays throughout December.

You can find your **Otley Christmas Advent-ure** calendar by turning to page 2. To stay up to date with more Christmas happenings and the latest shopping news, see www.visitotley.co.uk and www.buyinotley.co.uk

*To be included in the prize draw, submit your ticked off calendars to james@endurecommunications.co.uk



OTLEY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME NEARS COMPLETION

Why does Otley need a flood alleviation scheme?

Otley is at high risk of flooding. Parts of Otley flooded in December 2015 when the River Wharfe burst its banks. There have also been many times when the river has burst its banks and properties have come close to flooding.

The area around Wharfemeadows Park has been the worst affected area. Over 50 houses and the road at Billams Hill were flooded in 2015.

That's why the Otley Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) was approved in 2020, to lower the flood risk in the surrounding areas from 20 percent in any year, to 4 percent in any year.

How does the FAS work?

A flood embankment with an impermeable steel core has been constructed to the west of Billams Hill. This embankment reduces the risk of flooding from the primary flood route which was seen in 2015, where water flowed across the site, over the road at Billams Hill and flooded properties.

Alongside the embankment, vegetation clearance has taken place on the islands downstream of the weir. Management will continue in order to maintain this reduced vegetation. Alongside the island clearance work to maintain and improve habitat and biodiversity has also been completed. The combination of all the work on the islands and the flood embankment reduces the flood risk in the area.

What is the progress on the scheme?

At the time of writing, the Otley FAS is due to be operational by the end of November, including the final works of landscaping on the main site and refining to the vegetation works on the islands downstream of the weir.

The ongoing vegetation management aims to reduce the prevalence of crack willow on the islands as they increase flood risk in this location. The crack willow will be replaced with more suitable tree species which will be managed to maintain the ecological benefits of vegetation whilst having a reduced impact on flooding.

Once the FAS is operational, we will be sending out an update to the subscribers of our e-newsletter.

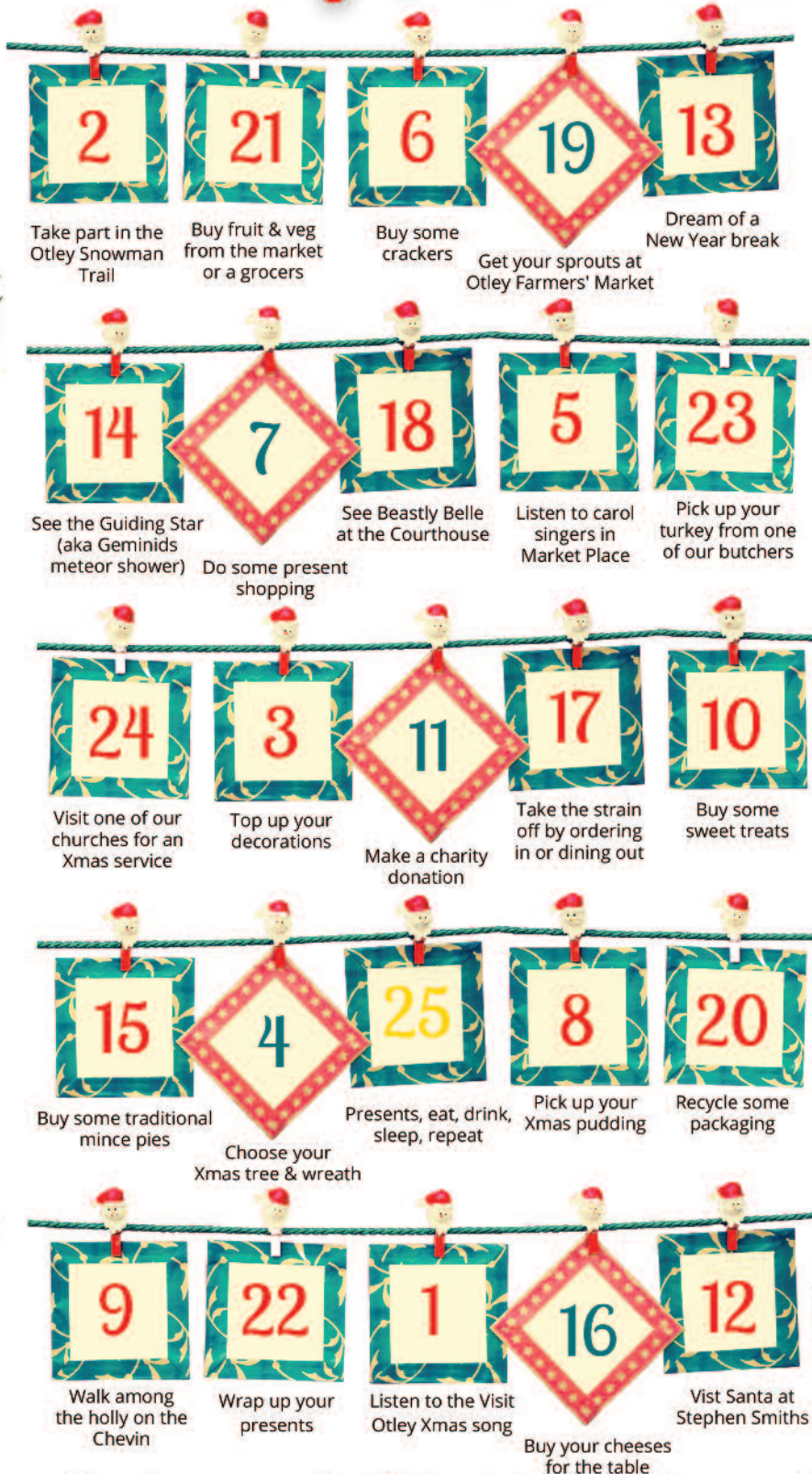
We will also be adding some legacy information to the Leeds City Council website, which will include information on the history of the scheme, how it works, what you can do to manage your flood risk, how the vegetation will be managed going forward, and the wider benefits of the scheme.

Head to www.leeds.gov.uk and search "Otley FAS" to find this information. If the information is not yet live, from the same page you can sign up to our e-newsletter for a notification when the information is ready, and for final updates on the scheme into 2022.

If you have any questions about the Otley FAS, if you would like to request to join the mailing list, or would like to arrange a meeting with the team, please contact us on FRM@leeds.gov.uk



An Otley Advent-ure



See visitotley.co.uk to see how you can win a Christmas prize by completing your advent

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TASTE THE PRIDE SINCE 1885

MAYOR'S NEWS

I have been fortunate enough to attend a few recent events, including the official opening of The Beech Hill Centre and the renamed Chippendale Centre. Both centres have been recently refurbished to a very high standard and are now excellent venues for local community groups to use.

I was also invited to visit RAF Menwith Hill, the first time they have been able to invite local Civic and Community Leaders for a briefing, since before the first lockdown and it proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable morning.

Moving forward to Christmas, unfortunately many of the major events associated with the festive season have been cancelled, which I know is disappointing for businesses and the community as a whole. The decision to cancel events has not been taken lightly but keeping the people of Otley and the surrounding area safe has been the primary factor in making these decisions.

Christmas, this year, may not be the big celebration we all look forward to, but I do hope it will be a time for friends and families to meet safely and enjoy spending time together.

I send you all my good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and sincerely hope that we can move forward to a more settled 2022.



Cllr Sylvia Thomson, Otley Town Mayor

Christmas Designer Craft Fair

Saturday 11th December 10 am to 1 pm



Instead of having a Craft Fair which coincides with the Farmers' Market, this December there will be a special Fair at Otley Courthouse on Saturday 11th December.

This will be the ideal opportunity to find that special Christmas present, while taking a break from the December weather outside!

All items are designed and made by stallholders. The Fair features jewellery, stationery, gifts, art and craft work and lots more!

There will be mulled wine and mince pies and the Courthouse café will be open for drinks and snacks. Admission is free.

For further information please email: craftfairsatotleycourthouse@gmail.com

OTLEY SNOWMAN TRAIL



This year has been yet another traumatic year which has touched everyone and brought much sadness to many people.

After cancelling the Otley Vintage Transport Extravaganza, we were hoping that we could at least do one event to put a smile on everyone's face as Christmas approaches. As Chairman of both the Transport Extravaganza and the Snowman trail, I held a meeting and talked it over with my family to see if we could still put on the popular Otley Snowman Trail. We did not want to break any rules regarding social distancing or do anything which might lead to an increase in cases of this pandemic. I had received many requests to go ahead with the trail and I know my late brother, Gerard, would have wanted us to carry on with it so that at least it would be something for all Otley residents to enjoy, see and be involved with over the Christmas period.

We are therefore pleased to announce that the Fourth Otley Snowman Trail will take place from Friday 26th November 2021 to Saturday 18th December 2021. Booklets will be available from various outlets around the town and from under the Buttercross on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th November 2021 when we will let snowmen, women and children take over the whole town!

Please take time to visit www.otleysnowmantrail.weebly.com for an entry form. You can also see previous entries and winners on the picture gallery. Everyone may enter, be it houses, businesses, shops or factories. Just think what you could do.

For more information, please contact: nigelfrancis007@outlook.com or nigel.francis@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



OTLEY CARNIVAL NEW COMMITTEE

Great news - A new Otley Carnival committee has formed!

Following two public meetings held in September and October, a group of Otley residents, passionate about ensuring the future of the Carnival, have come together to form a new committee. Otley Carnival will go ahead in 2022 - it's 40th year.

Nigel Gill, former Carnival press and publicity officer is now Chair and leading the new committee in their roles to create a wonderful 40th year celebration in June 2022.

For anyone wishing to get involved they may email njgill@talktalk.net to enquire.

20 Years Long Service Award



Otley Town Council were honoured to celebrate Karen Smith, Office and Allotments Manager, 20 years' service of working for the Council at a presentation held on 16th September 2021. To mark the occasion Karen received an award presented by Otley Town Mayor Cllr Sylvia Thomson, Chair of Council Cllr Richard Hughes and Chair of Human Resources Cllr Peter Jackson and the staff team in recognition of the commitment of Karen who has given so much of her time and spirit to Otley Town Council.

Otley Town Mayor Cllr Sylvia Thomson said 'Twenty years is an extraordinary length of time for someone to dedicate to their job. On behalf of the Town Council and the whole community of Otley we would like to thank Karen for all her hard work. It is the commitment of people like Karen that keeps the Town Council functioning and makes Otley the friendly place it is. We are happy to mark this milestone and look forward to continuing to work with Karen in the future.'

Karen was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a commemorative badge to mark this achievement and as an appreciation of her continued loyalty and dedication.

MY OTLEY MERCHANDISE

Public concern regarding single-use disposable items, especially plastics, is on the increase. Otley Town Council has its own initiative to encourage re-use and reduce plastic waste.

Otley Town Council offers the following branded 'My Otley' products as part of their campaign:

- Re-useable bamboo cups are available in a range of colours, size and designs priced at £6, £6.50 and £7;
- Re-useable jute bag available in a range of coloured trims priced at £4;
- Re-useable refill bottles, available in two styles priced at either £20 (hot and cold liquids) or £4 (cold liquids)

These items are available to purchase from the Town Council offices in Orchard Gate.



ILKLEY & DISTRICT U3A

Ilkley & District u3a (www.ilkleyu3a.org) is a group of over 1,600 individuals who enjoy meeting new people, learning new things and making new friendships through shared interests and hobbies.

My name is Steph Lee and I am one of a group of u3a members called "Otley u3a Ambassadors". Our aim is to strengthen the Ilkley & District u3a by not just encouraging new members but more importantly, to increase the number of groups you can join in Otley.

Groups already active in Otley include: Walking for Fitness, Reading for Fun, Patchwork and Quilting, Art for Fun, Beginners' Photography, Circle Dancing and Family History.

Do you have a talent that you may be able to share with others or would you just like to meet new friends? Feel free to drop me an email Leesteph48@gmail.com or call 07527 000189.



OTLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Located at the Cross Green Community Centre, Otley Children's Centre provides groups, courses, workshops, support, advice and lots of fun for families with children under five years old.

We run weekly drop-in "Here to Help" advice sessions every Tuesday from 9.15-10.15 am at Ashfield Primary School and again on Fridays from 9.30-11.00 am at the Children's Centre. At these sessions Family Outreach Workers will be available for any questions and advice; to talk things through in a safe and friendly session. We will do our best to support and advise you to move in the right direction.

On Thursdays we have Baby Massage from 10.30-11.30 am at the Children's Centre and then Little Movers from 1-2 pm. Baby Massage is an opportunity to bond with your baby through touch. You will also learn how to perform specific movements over your baby's body that can help to alleviate certain ailments such as colic, trapped wind and constipation. Little Movers are sessions for 1-to-2 year-olds where they can freely explore fun ways to move, while developing lots of great skills.

To book a place on either of the above sessions please call 07891 271410 or 07891 270933.

Otley Children's Centre also has two online courses. The first is a "Henry" course. This is an online eight-week course which involves sharing tools and skills to support a more active and healthy family lifestyle. Call 01937 841100 for more information or to book a place.



The second is a "Baby Clues/Understanding Your Baby" course which is a small group course of four sessions which cover: your baby's brain, your relationship with your baby, reading your baby and your baby's behaviour. Call 0113 3782861 for more information or to book a place.

Other services offered by the Children's Centre are: One-to-One support from a family outreach worker; Counselling Services; Support for families with children or parents with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities; Support for community playgroups; Support in finding a 2-yr-old FREE place for those eligible; we are Foodbank voucher providers for those unexpected times; we support the Bookstart scheme of free books to all children at two key ages before school to help families read together to encourage a love of books, stories and rhymes in children from as young an age as possible; Advisory Board Meetings - an opportunity for parents/carers to help shape the services offered by the Children's Centre.

You can contact the Children's Centre on 0113 3782861 or find us on Facebook.

PHGS Festive Barbarians Return!

After an absence of two years, Otley RUFC are hosting the fifth annual Prince Henry's Rugby Festival, supported by Otlensians RUFC. This will take place on Monday 27th December, with gates opening at 11 am.

The games begin at noon, with a mini touch-and-pass tournament, then a Year 7 and Year 8 mixed game (Santas vs Elves!) finishing with PHGS 1st XV vs a local Club/Schools Barbarians XV. There will be food, drink, plenty of rugby and a raffle with cash prizes.

Entry will be £5 on the day (under 18's free), with 50% going to the Doddie Weir and Rob Burrow Foundations, and the remainder towards the PHGS Rugby Fund.

Follow us on FaceBook 'PHGS Barbarians vs. Otley' to keep in touch with developments. Anyone wishing to volunteer or sponsor the event or with any enquiries, please contact Chris Smith at stc@princehenrys.co.uk



MUSIC ON THE STREETS OF OTLEY

This summer, after 18 months of life devoid of music, the streets, squares and parks of Otley came alive with the sound of live music. Thanks to funding from Leeds Inspired and Otley Town Council, eleven different acts performed over the four Saturdays of August in the Market Place, Orchard Gate, Bay Horse Court, Wharfemeadows Park and the Woolpack Music Studios.

Shoppers and visitors were treated to a wide variety of music, including brass band, traditional folk, Americana, jazz, pop, classical and Latin American. Of the eleven acts - Mestisa, Redwood River Band, Phil Snell, Otley Brass Band, Hazjak, Al Bampton, Lisa-Marie Glover, Becky Holmes, Joe & Anne Gallagher, the Gum Trio, and Sally's Army - all but three are either based in or have members living in Otley, and all performers were from the Leeds district. The funding allowed all performers to be remunerated properly, something of particular importance to Jennifer Pugh and Richard Sabey of Otley's Woolpack Studios, who organised the project. Jen said 'the quality of music was unfailingly high, and it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying live music in the open air'.





Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate this historic milestone. Across the four days the celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

Otley Town Council is seeking ideas and input from the community as to how the town should celebrate this historic milestone. If you have ideas, as an individual or community group, please let us know. Please email admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Male Voice Choir Celebration

Wharfedale Male Voice Choir has enjoyed a successful return to singing after the Covid lockdown. Since September they have been meeting each Monday in Salem Church Hall in Burley under the able direction of Musical Director Paul Hurst to prepare for Spring concerts by revising their existing repertoire and developing some new material.

The choir is aiming to celebrate the end of this term by inviting friends and family to a pre-Christmas concert on Monday 13th December at 3.00 pm in Salem Church Hall, Burley in Wharfedale.

For any information about the concert or membership of the choir please contact Secretary Peter Roberts on 01943 463456.

OTLEY FOLK CLUB

We are very happy to announce that the Otley Folk Club has resumed at the Black Horse Hotel in the function room every Wednesday night starting at 8.00 pm. In order to be as safe as possible we have been making sure that the windows are open and the chairs are well spaced out. We will be hosting 'singers' nights' to start with and booking guest artists from the end of October.

Check out the website www.otleyfolkclub.org for further information.

Otley Primary School Gold Award

Westgate Primary School in Otley has been awarded a Gold School Travel Award, in recognition of its commitment to active and sustainable travel.

Awarded by the national education awards scheme, Modeshift STARS, the accreditation recognises schools that demonstrate excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other sustainable modes of transport.

To achieve the award, Westgate Primary School encouraged its pupils to walk, cycle, scoot or 'park & stride' to school by implementing sustainable travel initiatives. This includes joining the School Streets scheme.



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

In September, Wharfedale Gardeners were able to have their long awaited gathering at their new venue, Beech Hill Church in Otley. Although now limited to a specific number due to fire regulations, membership stays strong and loyal and it was good to see so many familiar faces again.

This Autumn members have enjoyed talks by Ben Preston from York Gate Gardens, Nick Bailey on reviving our gardens and Kevin Pratt on rare and unusual pictorial plants. The Christmas party is at Otley Rugby Club, probably the last there before their move.

We are looking forward to John Grimshaw in January, talking on *A Journey in Search of Ungrowable Plants*.



A HIGHLY TRAINED VOLUNTEER ON GUARD DUTY

We had a really good harvest this year. And so did others judging by the numbers of members and visitors we had juicing in autumn.

All in all, the Project has had a productive year and we have grand plans for 2022 too. Starting off with Wayzgoose Morris Team wassailing away the mischievous spirits in the orchard on Sunday 17th January. And then maintenance and yet more tree planting. We have over 80 trees in the orchard now and with the removal of the diseased horse chestnut earlier in the year there is room for lots more.

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



Otley Jujitsu



Formed in 2004 Otley Jujitsu club has provided a safe and friendly environment for both adults and youngsters to learn the Japanese art of Jujitsu. Aply run by Sensei Clare Hooker (6th Dan) and Mike Hooker (6th Dan) the club is now located at the new Beech Hill Church premises in Otley. Training takes place on Tuesday evenings (last two of each month) and Friday evenings from 7.30–9.00 pm. New members are always made to feel welcome, and the first class is always free of charge.

The classes are invaluable for anybody to learn their overall mental and physical strength capabilities, with an emphasis on empowering women to feel safer in their environment. It is great for keeping in shape and gives the opportunity to become part of a very friendly group. Otley Jujitsu Club aim to run a beginners' class in January . . . dates and times to be confirmed. If you would like to reserve your place then get in touch with Clare or Mike at clare.hooker@kenshinkan.org or mike.hooker@kenshinkan.org



Vote for Your Favourite Businesses

The voting for the Otley Business Awards 2022 has opened and Otley Chamber of Trade are asking all residents to vote for their favourite businesses in categories including: Best Retail, Best Service Sector, Good Service Award, Best Newcomer, Best Eatery, Best Pub/Bar and the Community Award. Voting is online by going to www.otleychamber.co.uk and using the online form by Friday 14th January 2022. The results will be announced at the Awards Evening on Friday 18th March where all nominated businesses will be invited to celebrate at the Parish Church with food, drinks, entertainment and an inspiring talk by Stephanie Moon, Consultant Chef. Our businesses really enjoy knowing if they have served you well during the last year and this is your chance to give your favourites a pat on the back.



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OTLEY IN BLOOM

Autumn has been a busy planting time for us. With extra volunteers, over three sessions, we planted two thousand mixed daffodils along the riverbank between Buon Apps and Tittybottle Park.

During lockdowns this area became very important to many people as a walking route, so it seemed a fitting place to plant up as a memorial to those who suffered or continue to suffer due to Covid.

With the permission of Leeds City Council, and thanks to help from the Rotary Club of Otley, we have also planted a mix of wildflowers on the steep bank to the north west of the Ilkley Road underpass. A series of blue hearts will mark out the area, as this is now an agreed restricted mowing area. Plants include: Red Sorrel, Sticklewort, Yarrow, Red Clover, Fox and Cubs and Autumn Hawlot, as well as a range of grasses.

In the town centre, the barrier planters have been tidied and filled with perennial autumn and winter colour and under planted with

daffodils and other spring bulbs. The Wharfemeadows Park nectar bed and Weston Lane beds have been tidied and restocked. The Insta planters and fire station beds have been restocked and Bremner Street bushes trimmed.

Thank you to all those who have thanked us, as we have been out and about, continuing to care for the various planting around Otley. It means a lot.

For up-to-date news please follow our Facebook page and website.

Please email otleyinbloom@gmail.com if you wish to become a volunteer



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OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL 2021

The Folk Festival this year was a rapidly co-ordinated event and proved to be very popular with the local folk fans and the many visitors who all came to support. Everyone had a really good weekend. We overcame the many obstacles, ensured the audiences were safe and despite people thinking it could not be done...we did it. We have ensured the future continuity of the festival and this year's format will form the basis for future events.

We had an exciting opening concert on Friday 17th September at Otley Courthouse, featuring Jon Palmer, Duncan McFarlane and the brilliant Katie Spencer. At the same time many folkies were enjoying a folk club session at the Black Horse. It was a great start to the weekend.

On Saturday we had wonderful Morris Teams who braved the outside after months of lockdown and not much practice! The weather was kind and we were able to be outside for an afternoon concert at the Black Horse Stables, headlined by The Dave Vermond Trio and Otley music heroes Bayou Gumbo.

The Heathen Kings followed on and entertained the crowd in the function room. We were delighted to welcome back the energetic Granny's Attic who played on Saturday evening at the Courthouse with support from PlumHall and Yan Tan Tether.

It was back to the Black Horse Stables on Sunday for the final event of the weekend, where The Hall Brothers and Jon Palmer Band finished off the show.

There were some nail biting moments leading up to the date, do we, don't we...what happens if...can we, can't we...but it was all worth it. The town pulled together and we would like to thank all the artists, helpers and staff for giving their time.

We look forward to next year - a date for your diary 16th - 18th September 2022 for the 31st Otley Folk Festival.

If you would like to be part of the team and help us deliver a weekend of music, dance and fun please contact us at otleyff@hotmail.com



HELPING OUR OLDER PEOPLE GET OUT AND ABOUT AFTER COVID

Otley Action for Older People have successfully applied for £9,750 of funding from the National Lottery. This will help with our ongoing activities to support our older community to regain previous levels of physical and emotional health that has suffered as a result of the pandemic. Some of the funds will go towards additional training for our existing lead minibus driver, enabling him to train other volunteer drivers and increase our pool of volunteer minibus drivers, allowing us to provide more social excursions and continue to support our members requiring transport to attend health

appointments. We can also provide additional training for our volunteers in Dementia Awareness, First Aid, Manual Handling and Safeguarding, replace our wheelchairs and provide secure storage for them. We are delighted to have secured this funding and excited about the opportunities it provides to help our elderly community thrive.



HEDGEHOGS IN WINTER

Hedgehogs are one of the few mammals that fully hibernate. During hibernation hedgehogs are not really sleeping but they drop their body temperature to match their surroundings and slow down all their bodily functions. This allows them to save lots of energy, using the fat reserves that they stored up in the autumn. On milder days, however, it is possible that hedgehogs wake up and go looking for a bite to eat, or even move nests, before returning back to sleep. If you see hedgehog activity in your gardens during the winter months leave out some food for them, ideally dried cat biscuits and a bowl of water. It is important not to disturb a hibernating hedgehog so don't open your hedgehog house or clean up any piles of leaves or logs as there might be a sleeping hedgehog snuggled up inside.

If you find a hedgehog that you are concerned about you can contact us on 07434 626832 or send us a message via our Facebook page.



WILDLIFE ARTS FESTIVAL IS A SUCCESS

Otley's first ever Wildlife Arts festival was a success for the local community and is likely to be repeated, say the organisers, Wildlife Friendly Otley.

The free daytime exhibition and talks programme, all focused on wildlife themes, at Otley Courthouse attracted a good attendance all day. In the evening, the international award-winning wildlife cameraman Ian McCarthy gave an inspiring and entertaining presentation with stories and film clips based on 30 years' working on TV programmes such as The Blue Planet and Autumn Watch.

'The feedback has been great and showed there is wide interest in wildlife and nature in a variety of forms,' said Neil Griffin, Wildlife Friendly Otley education officer. 'We'll definitely do it again. It has both furthered our aims and given the talented artists of the town a platform.'

Altogether six local creative groups were involved at the Courthouse, plus a further 22 individuals, both amateur and professional. All were sharing their creative response to the wonder of nature, but there was a great variety in the way that they did this. As well as painters and photographers, poets and prose-writers, there were displays of wildlife in textiles, mosaics and wood carving, plus talks on nature.

Wildlife Friendly Otley said it was a success for the Otley community, showcasing local arts talent and attracting wide support. Thank you to all who came, the participants, its members, volunteers, Otley Courthouse, the festival sponsors, Sinclair's and Otley Town Council for their valuable financial support, plus help from Artworks, Courtyard Planters and Petwise. All were key to the festival's success.



OTLEY SEWING COLLECTIVE REWARDED WITH LOTTERY FUNDING

Otley Sewing Collective recently celebrated receiving £2,097 of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. The award from the Local Connections Fund is aimed at bringing people together in safe and secure ways, helping to reduce loneliness and build lasting connections.

Andi Petch, Chair of the sewing collective, said, 'We are delighted to receive this award, it is a testament to the hard work of our volunteers' making scrubs and masks over the last year and will allow us to establish ourselves in the community.' Speaking at their celebration event Claire Clements, treasurer, said 'The money will enable us to continue supporting the community by establishing regular group meetings and running workshops, masterclasses and sewing bee events.'

Andi continued "We have a new home at Beech Hill Church which is a fantastic venue. Inclusivity is a priority for us, and we are lucky to have a fully accessible venue in the centre of town. We are looking forward to welcoming our members and being able to meet face to face after a year of collecting scrubs fabric and working at home." If people are shielding or have vulnerable people

they are caring for please contact us and we can arrange the collection or delivery of project packs for people to do at home.

Everyone is welcome to join. We charge a small of fee £2 per session and workshops will be run on a pay-as-you-feel basis to ensure they are accessible to all. We are a friendly group, and the members decide what to focus on in each session. This may be community projects such as twiddle mats for dementia patients, personal projects or a specialist sewing clinic where people can bring items they need help with. We have sewing machines and overlockers available for those who do not have their own or are unable to bring them.

Regular group meetings are the first Saturday of each month 11.00 am-1.00 pm, and the third Wednesday of the month from 7.00-9.00 pm. Both take place at Beech Hill Church, Westgate, Otley. Our programme of workshops, including beginner sessions, will be announced shortly. Further information can be found on our Facebook page @OtleySewingCollective or book on <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/otleysewingcollective>

DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS COMES TO OTLEY

Doughnut Economics is a framework used by regions, cities and towns all across the UK, Europe and the Americas to guide residents, councils, businesses, schools, churches and other local organisations, helping them to work on building for a better future.

Kate Raworth, who initiated the project, writes, "The Doughnut offers a vision of what it means for humanity to thrive in the 21st century."

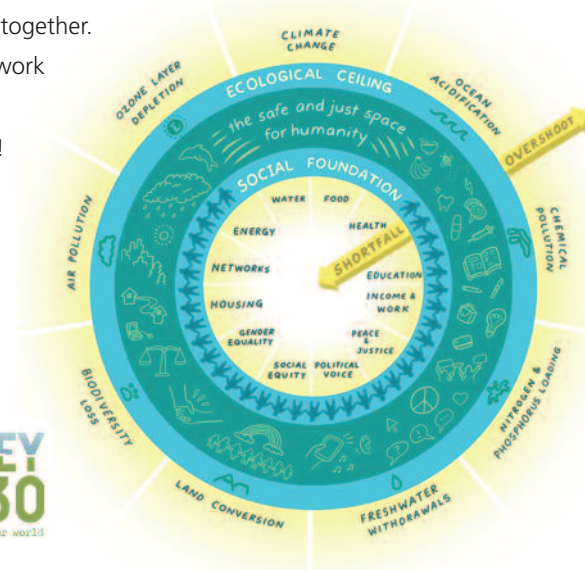
The Doughnut represents the town, city or region - in this case Otley. The outer edge is the barrier which we must not cross if we are to ensure our future survival on this planet: Otley currently breaches that barrier in many different sectors.

The inner circle represents the barrier which we must not cross for people to access the resources they need to thrive: eg sufficient income to eat and heat, robust local health services, warm homes and access to nearby green space.

We know that there are people in Otley who already breach that barrier - 1,000 food parcels have been delivered this year.

We can do better, but we need to work together.

Please email hello@otley2030.com and work with Otley 2030 to get us into the 'safe space in the doughnut' where we can all thrive and look forward to the future!



HUG ON A TRAY

Our new motto, "Teamwork makes the Dream work" inspired by new member of the Hug on a Tray Girls, Claire.

This year has been amazing with so many people supporting Hug on a Tray to ensure that in 2022 free TV provision is in the bag!! This is all thanks to a combination of promotion, doing many tombolas and donations from wonderful individuals and companies throughout Otley, Leeds and surrounding areas. Support has been fabulous and since we publicised the fact that we had achieved our goal for 2022, this has brought forward new companies eager and willing to help us both now and in the foreseeable future, with fantastic donations of stock and gifts that will benefit all the patients we support in the Bexley Wing at St James's Hospital.

For a long time now we've been looking for a small, affordable lock-up shop in Otley where we can do tombolas under cover through the winter months. We are therefore moving into 15 Manor Square in November. This unit will provide storage space, and serve as a base for Hug on a Tray, a 'Hub' where we can expand and interact with the community in the town.

There will be potential for events that would interest children such as a 'Santa's Grotto' this



Christmas and themed events. The shop will be selling new products that have already been donated.

The work being done to renovate the shop is being done either totally free or labour costs free; we are amazed at the kindness and generosity of so many people wanting to make a difference in the lives of others.

Outside tombolas will continue as usual outside M&Co in Orchard Gate, Bay Horse Court in Otley, and Yeadon Morrisons in dry weather!!

We will keep you updated as things progress. Many thanks to every one of you, we "Hug Girls" are sending much love and many hugs as we all live in the hope that normality will soon be restored in all our lives!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FROM PRINCE HENRY'S

Looking for a different Christmas present, why not gift a course from the Community Education programme at Prince Henry's? Your recipient could start the year with a course in Mindful Meditation, soothing away the strains of the Festive Season, or look forward to a day workshop in Art History or Mixed Media Scrapbooking.

'Our Community Education programme has been going very well, with so many local people telling us how happy they are to be back in the

classroom. Why not gift a little piece of joy for Christmas and give your family something a bit different?' said Christopher Lillington, Programme Director.

Mindful Meditation is just £70 for a ten-week course and Day Workshops are £40; concessions are available. To book, visit: www.princehenrys.co.uk/Community/CommunityEducation or, for more information, call 01943 463524 and ask for Pippa.

OTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Otley Townswomen's Guild has restarted its meetings after a long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are delighted to have a new

venue at Beech Hill Church, Westgate, Otley. Our Guild meetings are held on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm. We have a speaker or a social event.

Townswomen's Guilds are a national society, we support women's rights and raise money for charity.

We are a friendly group and offer activities such as walking, gardeners' group, readers' group, luncheon club and many more every month. We also have social outings to the theatre or summer events.

If you are interested, why not come along and make new friends or take up a hobby?

Email marglock42@gmail.com for more details or ring 01943 602429.



Film in Otley

Film screenings to suit all tastes continue at Otley Courthouse. For reasonably priced cinema with surround sound and no need to travel into Leeds, Bradford or Harrogate it can't be beaten!

Otley Film Society season continues - all screenings on Thursday at 7.45 pm. Doors and bar open from 7.15 pm. Tickets £5.

16th December – 'The Pebble and the Boy' a 19-year-old from Manchester embarks on a journey to Brighton on an old Lambretta scooter left to him by his father. There will be music.

6th January – 'First Cow' two losers and a cow set out to conquer the 1820s North-West of America.

27th January – 'Another Round' four high school teachers consume alcohol on a daily basis to see how it affects their social and professional lives.

3rd February – 'La Belle Epoque' Victor, a disillusioned 60-something whose marriage is on the rocks, opts to relive the week of his life when, 40 years earlier, he met his true love - through a company that allows its customers to return to the time-period of their choosing.

17th February – 'The Father' A man refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages.

With Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman.

Movie Matinees continue on Thursday at 2 pm (Ticket includes refreshments):

9th December – 'Downton Abbey' the film of the TV series.

Visit the Otley Courthouse website – www.otleycourthouse.org.uk for future Movie Matinees or sign up to the Courthouse mailing list.

Additional screenings at Otley Courthouse range from Gallery tours, to recorded concerts, ballet, theatre and opera - and live streaming when available.

12th December – Cliff Richard in concert - Sunday at 7.30 pm.



7th January – Northern Ballet in cinema presents: Dangerous Liaisons - Friday at 7.00 pm.

Tickets for all films and screenings are available from the Otley Courthouse box office - in person, by telephone (01943 467466) or online.

New Year at Otley Courthouse

Thursday 20th January 8 pm
The Outside Track

Winner of 'Best Group' in both the Live Ireland awards and the Tradition in Review awards, The Outside Track are one of the top Celtic acts in the world. They were 'Best Live Act' nominees in the MG Alba Scots Traditional Music Awards, and won the German Radio Critics Prize, for their album Flash Company. Live Ireland called them 'Among the top bands in the world - stunning on every cut!'

Tickets are £15



Friday 21st January 8 pm
Shaparak Khorsandi: IT WAS THE 90s!

Ah, the 90s! This is a show about how we 90s kids are looking to young people to learn how to take care of ourselves.

Age 14+

Tickets are £16

Friday 4th February 8 pm

Toyah: Posh Pop Tour

This is a unique chance to experience Toyah up close and personal with a show that has a lively cinematic sound using Toyah's vocals/ keyboards/

stand-up bass and storytelling, it will include Toyah performing her loved hit singles and classic songs, alongside recalling stories from her colourful, forty-year career.

Tickets are £25

Friday 11th February 8 pm
Mark Watson: This Can't Be It

We've all had some pondering to do about the fragility of life recently, but don't worry, skinny national treasure Mark Watson has it covered. At 41, he's halfway through his days on earth, according to the life expectancy calculator app he paid £1.49 for. That life is in the best shape in living memory... but one problem remains, and it really is a huge one.

Spiritual enquiry meets high-octane observational comedy as the 'Taskmaster' survivor, multi-award-winner and "No More Jockeys" cult leader attempts to cram a couple of years of pathological overthinking into an evening of stand-up. Maybe we'll even solve the huge problem. Doubt it, though.

Age 14+

Tickets are £20

We look forward to welcoming audiences back to the Courthouse, 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.

The Bridge United Reformed Church

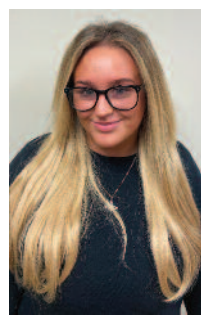


The Bridge United Reformed Church has continued to celebrate its Bicentenary year with scaled back events and during November held a popular Bicentenary Dinner at Otley Golf Club and a Service of Thanksgiving in the Church followed by a celebratory tea in the Church Hall.

During December we will be holding our traditional Carol and Candlelight Services as well as our Christmas Morning Service.

The church will be offering a Christmas Day Lunch where we serve those in our community who are facing Christmas Day alone, or for people who do not have families around them on the day. We aim to give a special day to those who normally would not look forward to Christmas Day on their own.

Please check the Bridge Church Website www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk to confirm the events are taking place or take a look at our Facebook page – Otley Bridge Church.



Introducing Millie McMahon

Hi all, my name is Millie McMahon. I am 18 years old and recently I was offered a two year apprenticeship with Otley Town Council in Business and Administration.

In my first few weeks of working with Otley Town Council I have found it interesting and very welcoming; the team have helped me with gaining new and important skills and have given me tasks to complete to help me with my training. Some of the tasks that have been given to me so far include:

- Dealing with members of the public
- Teaching me how to help the public with things such as enquiries and

complaints and to help them in resolving their issues in the best way I can.

- Window displays - I have been given responsibility for the displays in the windows, making sure all information and events are up to date, and if not to take them out and replace them with new information.

- Key service information - I have been shown where to find key information so if any member of the public asks I should be able to assist them and give them the answers they are looking for.

I am really enjoying the experience so far and excited for the days to come; I appreciate the opportunity they have given me and look forward to helping you all in the future.

Town Poet

A poem celebrating the re-installation of the small Maypole and the taller Maypole, which has stood for hundreds of years and represents one of our ancient traditions, by Otley Town Poet, Matthew Hedley Stoppard.

The Cross in the Green

*Starlings circle the summit while it stands silent
most of the year, scraping the sky, clouds caught on its weathervane.
75 feet high casting an immeasurable shadow
like a sundial, its history beneath, deeper than a grave,
struck down by lightning, wind and rot yet
resurrected each time like the wild flowers and the crops
in the fields. Crowds from all around would fill the streets
decorating the centuries with garlands and flags
every May Day and even now ribbons are strung,
red, white and black, for children to plait around the pole
on Manchester Square, entwined like a May Queen's hair
or dolly made of corn - melodeon, fiddle, kettle drum keeping rhythm.
While it stands, dancers will rise at dawn to welcome in the summer
Morris bells ringing with a tradition that brings us together.*



OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

We have been glad to be able to resume activities and meet new people in recent weeks.

After 22 years leading Otley Parish Church, Rev Graham Buttanshaw has now retired. He and his wife Janet completed their journey here on 21st November 2021. This has been a challenging surprise, which, in itself, indicates what a great job they have done. They will be missed!

Graham has not only served our church faithfully but will be widely remembered in Otley for his pastoral support for many people in their different life events through

the years, and Janet for her involvement with young families and children.

We wish them well in their new setting.

The church is not going away, we remain a welcoming and worshipping community! In time a new appointment will be made. Christmas will happen as always!

For more details about Otley Parish Church visit our website:

www.otleyparishchurch.org



OTLEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Otley Annual Achievement Award showcases the work of hardworking individuals within the town by recognising both a young person and adult who have achieved something outstanding – be it academic, musical, 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 2021 then we would like to hear from you, by nominating them now for the 2021 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 Core or email a request to: eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The deadline for nominations is Friday 11th March 2022. Please return all nominations to Jason Knowles or e-mail: eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

HONORARY CITIZENS



Otley Town Mayor Cllr Sylvia Thomson 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. All nominations must be from Otley residents only 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 11th March 2022.

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



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

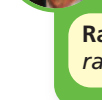


Sylvia Thomson (Lib Dem)
sylvia.thomson@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

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

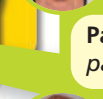


Jo Allen (Lib Dem) t: 01943 461899
Jo.Allen@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

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 (Deputy Town Mayor); Cllr Jo Allen; Cllr Mick Bradley; Cllr Ray Smith; Dr Jason Knowles (Executive Officer)
Front row left to right: Cllr Kim Holmes (resigned); Cllr Sylvia Thomson (Town Mayor); Cllr Ray Georgeson (resigned); Cllr Peter Jackson; Suzanne Kidger (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

ALLOTMENT RENT BILLS 2022

Rental bills for 2022 will be sent out in late December and should be paid by 31st January 2022.

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.

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 2022 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 and great pleasure in trying times and send you best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS DEC 2021 - FEB 2022

Planning Trade & Tourism	6th December 2021
Audit Human Resources	13th December 2021
Planning Environment & Sustainability	10th January 2022
Policy & Resources Full Council	24th January 2022
Planning Community Development	14th February 2022
Audit Human Resources	28th February 2022

Town Council meetings are usually held at the Otley Core Resource Centre, 11 Orchard Gate, Otley. 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.

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: otleymatters@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Christmas Greetings

Otley Town Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2022.

NEXT EDITION

To have your organisation, group or event included in Otley Matters March 2022 Edition please contact Jason Knowles for the editorial date in early January on 01943 466335 or email: otleymatters@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk