



POETRY FESTIVAL FOR TOWN'S TEENS

Young people throughout Otley will be invited to a celebration of verse and musical language, featuring a showcase of nationally-known poets, writing workshops and a competition for aspiring word-smiths.

Town Poet, Matthew Hedley Stoppard, will curate the season-long festival of poetry in partnership with the Town Council, Prince Henry's Grammar School, Leeds Libraries, Leeds City Council and Otley Courthouse, overseeing a variety of literary activity.

He will also be working closely with **Matt Abbott** (renowned spoken-word artist, Bloomsbury-published author and star of Blue Peter, The Beano and Nationwide adverts), who will deploy his collective of LiveWire poets to deliver workshops for teenagers in the second week of May before ending the festival with a double-bill performance, featuring the workshop participants.

The poets are: **Toria Garbutt**, a Knottingley-born poet who has both published a full-length collection of poetry and produced a spoken-word album. She is Dr John Cooper Clarke's regular support act, performing throughout the UK and Europe, and has been described as "powerful, accessible, intelligent and musical" by Professor Benjamin Zephaniah.

Kirsty Taylor is a poet, playwright and educator from Bradford who is proud of her roots. She blends hip hop influences with kitchen-sink realism and her unique and powerful approach to poetry earned her a place on The Verb's New Voices scheme on BBC Radio 3. **Simone Yasmin** is a Black writer, spoken-word artist and vocal soul, born in Leeds. Simone writes about all things people leave unsaid and pulls no punches when it comes to unpacking racism, feminism and other humanitarian issues, in her blog 'Ethereal Truth'. Lastly, **Jack Collins**, a poet, teacher and events host who actually attended Prince Henry's!

The festival will kick off on 1st March with a poetry competition for under 19s on the theme of "Our Town, Our Time", judged by Matthew. The competition closes 1st April, and the winners will be presented with their prizes at Otley Community Hub and Library Saturday 14th May. The winning and commended poems will be published as an e-anthology available from the Leeds Libraries BorrowBox app.

The project will culminate in a two-part showcase featuring the LiveWire poets and their young workshop participants at Otley Courthouse on Sunday 15th May. Full details and booking info can be found at www.otleycourthouse.org.uk.

Matthew's interactive "Otley Woodcock Walk" on The Chevin, created in partnership with Friends of Otley Chevin and Leeds City Council, will continue to be available throughout the poetry festival, and can be accessed via the free Echoes app available from the Apple App Store and Play Store.



Photos clockwise from the top:
Matt Abbott; Toni Garbutt; Kirsty Taylor; Simone Yasmin;
Jack Collins



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June this year are being developed by a range of Otley groups led by Otley Courthouse. Music events, film screenings and tree planting at Gallows Hill Nature Area are just some of the projects proposed to mark the event. Look out for more details to be announced soon for this four-day weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 11 International Women's Day
- 27 Otley Farmers Market
- 27 Otley Designer Craft Fair
- 27 Bay Horse Bazaar

April

- 9 Otley Green Fair
- 24 Otley Farmers Market
- 24 Otley Designer Craft Fair
- 24 Bay Horse Bazaar
- 30 Otley Coffee Festival

May

- 1 May Day Dance
- 8 Chevin Motor Club – Classics on the Cobbles
- 14-15 Otley Poetry Festival
- 21 Otley Show
- 29 Otley Farmers Market
- 29 Otley Designer Craft Fair
- 29 Bay Horse Bazaar

* Otley Market Days held every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

** Please note all events, dates and times are subject to change and cancellation due to Covid

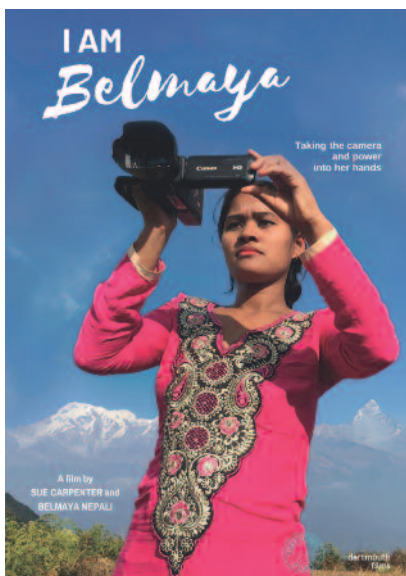
OTLEY WOMEN TOGETHER INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

On Friday 11th March, the film *'I am Belmaya'*, about an uneducated Nepali woman who became a documentary film maker, will be shown at Otley Courthouse at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6 and are available from the Courthouse or from www.otleycourthouse.org.uk.

This screening is organised by Otley Women Together, 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 the group has hosted many speakers and events of interest suitable for a wide audience. Otley Women Together would like to thank Otley Courthouse for support in holding this event.

International Women's Day is an annual event that celebrates all the amazing things women have achieved. It is a way to show how women have influenced and continue to influence the world. As well as celebrating brilliant women, it's also used as a day to highlight and raise awareness about issues that women still face. This year's theme is 'Break the Bias', recognising and celebrating the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are working to change the climate of gender equality and build a sustainable future.

Historically, women have been denied the right to vote, to work, and lots of other things too. Because of brilliant women who fought against these things, women have a lot more say in the world around us now. But there are still many issues that women continue to face and fight for today. The film is an inspirational and moving tale of rebellion, courage and hope, as Belmaya battles to take charge of her story.



OTLEY Coffee Festival Saturday 30th April 2022

Coffee festivals are more and more popular

London Coffee Festival is one of the world's largest and Manchester has had a great festival for the last five years, which has grown steadily.

At a coffee festival you can enjoy finding out more about coffee and associated products, whatever your level of expertise. At Otley Coffee Festival you will be able to meet and chat to great Yorkshire coffee roasters and merchants who will tell you their story and encourage you to try out their products. There will also be local product stalls. You will be able to buy coffee, tea and coffee merchandise and listen to talks about coffee.

What is special about Otley Coffee Festival?

Otley has a long tradition of welcoming visitors, especially to the great events we stage every year. Otley's coffee festival sits in that tradition. We have learnt from other coffee festivals, but also intend that our festival will be distinctive: a day-long series of events in our festival hub - the Parish Church - but involving the participation of some of Otley's great coffee shops as well. It will appeal to both the coffee connoisseur and those just looking for a good day out. Sustainability will be at the heart of the event, with Vegware both sponsoring the day and providing compostable cups. We are also grateful to Otley BID and our other sponsors, Greenholme Carpets and Buon Apps, for their support.

The Line-Up

We have been able to attract the likes of Dark Woods, North Star, Casa Espresso, Rountons and Discovery from Taylors – all great regional roasters. We also have Hebden Tea providing a different kind of brew. There are local stalls from great Otley shops such as Patisserie Viennoise. There will be competitions for all ages and children's face painting and we are inviting local bands to provide live music.

Tickets and Information

Otley's first coffee festival is on Saturday 30th April 2020. Timed tickets are £6, available in person, by phone and online from Otley Courthouse www.otleycourthouse.org.uk. Tickets may also be available on the door at £7 per person, but we strongly suggest you book in advance.

The festival website is www.otleycoffeeculture.co.uk and you can also follow on Instagram at [@otleycoffeeculture](https://www.instagram.com/otleycoffeeculture). Updates will be posted in both places.

OTLEY SHOW SATURDAY 21st MAY

The Otley Show is back in 2022! It has been a long time away and we are excited about this comeback show.



The Otley Show has been one of the highlights in the town's calendar, and features traditional livestock classes - cattle, sheep, horses, poultry, rabbits, hamsters and dogs, supported by classes showcasing the best of local produce, handicrafts and floral art. Schedules are now available for these classes and can be obtained by downloading them from www.otleyshow.org.uk. Entries for all the classes will close on April 21st.

This May, Otley Show welcomes Paul Hannam, Quad Bike stuntman, as well as a falconry display, giant tortoises and a circus skills performer, just to name a few of the attractions we have lined up.

Otley Show is the oldest one-day Agricultural Show in the country and really is a great day out for all the family, so why not become a member this year to enjoy the exclusive members' facilities. Details can be found on our website: www.otleyshow.org.uk



OTLEY CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date for this year's 40th annual Otley Carnival! To be held on Saturday 18th June.

Programmes will be available very soon from Otley Library, Otley Core and at our Buttercross Stall on Saturday 7th May.

The carnival is FREE to attend and all are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day, become a patron, book a stall, enter the parade, enter the window competition or poster competition, or advertise with us please message the Otley Carnival Facebook page [@otleycarnival](https://www.facebook.com/otleycarnival) or email njgill@talktalk.net

Otley Walking Festival 25 June – 3 July, 2022

It's back again and looking good for Otley Walking Festival 2022. With around 45 walks and events over the nine days of Otley Walking Festival, there really is something for everyone. Catering for all abilities - shorter town-based walks, meadows and field paths, strenuous moorland hikes, entertaining evening events, including old favourites and new themed walks. Otley Walking Festival showcases our historic market town and the wonderful variety of Wharfedale countryside we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep. You can be sure of a warm welcome from our walk leaders and the chance to meet friendly folk. The programme will be available from Easter - online and in local venues.

Some walks will require booking - check the programme carefully as turning up on spec will not be possible for all walks.

Check our website for the latest updates: www.otleywalkingfestival.co.uk



Otley Cricket Club Builds for the Future

This year will see Otley Cricket Club look to overhaul its practice facilities with a state-of-the-art non-turf practice area. The Club aims to create a new two-lane practice facility this Autumn, built to approved England Cricket Board specification encompassing the latest technology to ensure the boys, girls, men and women of Otley have a facility that is fitting with the Club and town's ambitions. The project scope also includes the building of a new groundsman's shed and provision of a new electronic scoreboard. To fulfil this ambitious project, the Club's committee are seeking to fundraise in the region of £50,000. The Club will be running a range of fundraising events throughout the year, so support in any way from Otley's townsfolk will be hugely appreciated. To get in touch and for details of fundraising opportunities please visit the Clubs' social media channels and website for information.

We are also excited to announce the launch of our Girls Dynamo's programme, which is aimed at girls aged 8 to 11 in the local area. It is a 6-week programme starting on 7th May at 9.30am. To register, please visit our social media for the link to book your place!

Cancer Wise Leeds

Cancer Wise Leeds, funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research and delivered in partnership with Leeds City Council, is working alongside GP Practices in Otley to encourage people to participate in the national bowel, breast and cervical cancer screening programmes when invited. Each of the screening tests is different and looks for different things, but they all aim to detect early signs of cancer in people who don't have any symptoms. Screening involves inviting a specific population, or group of people, to take part, usually based upon their gender or age. The benefit of screening is simple - it can help to identify cancer at an early stage when treatment is usually far more likely to be successful and people are more likely to survive. We encourage you therefore to participate when invited. If you would like to find out more, including whether you are eligible to take part, please visit the NHS website to access a range of information. Alternatively, please contact your GP Practice.



Otley in Bloom Receive two Covid Resilience Awards

Otley in Bloom are proud to have received two 'Covid Resilience Awards' from Yorkshire in Bloom, Best of Yorkshire 2021.

We were awarded 'Certificates of Excellence' for our 'Kind to Nature Projects', including our Nectar Beds, Barrier Planters, BT garden and various rewilding projects and for our 'Community Litterbug' work, continually cleaning up areas around town.

Over the winter we have been involved with some new projects, providing pots and plants for Otley Children's Centre, building a new planter and bug apartments on Wellcroft and replanting the fire station bikes.



We have continued to maintain and refresh the Barrier Planters and Instaplanters in the centre of town.

Now Spring is here, we are eager to see how the two thousand daffodils we planted by the river have fared.

We have exciting new projects to be involved with this year, which we can't wait to share with you.

Please drop OIB a note using messenger on our Facebook page or email otleyinbloom@gmail.com and we will be in touch if you wish to become a volunteer or have any local projects you want help with.

OTLEY GREEN FAIR 2022

Otley Green Fair will take place at Otley Courthouse on 9th April from 10am to 4pm.

'A celebration of all things Green in Otley and beyond', with stalls, crafts, children's activities, and a café with vegan and vegetarian food.

After an unavoidable gap of two years, Otley Courthouse would like to offer a Green Fair once more. The event may be slightly smaller and allow for a one-way system and social distancing but will continue to demonstrate the commitment of the Courthouse to environmental and campaigning issues in the town and surrounding area.

This will be an opportunity for organisations or groups with an interest in 'Otley becoming Green' to get together, to promote the contributions that they are each making, and to share those with others, and with the public. People visiting the Fair can find out about what is being done to make Otley Greener, and hear about what they can do to help, either individually (at home, at work etc) or as part of one of the many groups who have a similar interest.

There is no admission charge to the public. For further information please visit www.otleycourthouse.org.uk

GALLOWES HILL NATURE AREA

Gallows Hill Nature Area has recently undergone a facelift with some improvements to the car park and footpaths and some health and safety works around the site, including new signage. We have also recently planted 100 hedgerow trees as part of the Queen's Canopy, to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

This nature area is home to a wide variety of birds, insects, amphibians, trees, flowers and plants and is a well-used resource for Otley used by families as well as walkers, runners and dog walkers and provides access for wheelchair and buggy users.

Otley Town Council, alongside the Friends of Gallows Hill and Harrogate-based charity Open Country, undertake planned maintenance works

on the site throughout the year, including: coppicing, pollarding, hedge laying, tree planting, weeding, litter picking, the removal of invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam and repairs around the site.

For more information about the Gallows Hill Nature Area and our volunteer days or to join the Friends of Gallows Hill please see the site noticeboard, visit our Facebook page or email the Chair: andrew.howarth@gallowshill.org.uk for details. There are monthly work parties on the first Tuesday of every month; please meet at 10.30am in the car park if you are interested in being involved. Come along and join in.



OTLEY & DISTRICT TALKING NEWSPAPER

We are having to move from our current studio and are pleased to have now found a suitable location in Otley from which we can continue to record the Talking Newspaper. We are aiming to start recording in the new studio during February, assuming Covid restrictions allow us, so our dedicated team of volunteer readers will be able once again to meet in person.

We produce the 'paper' on our website, www.otleytalkingnews.org.uk and on the TN app, available from your App Store, and on a memory stick for which we can provide a player.

Could you help produce the 'paper' or would you or someone you know like to receive a copy? If so, you can find out more details by emailing info@otleytalkingnews.org.uk or telephone 07745 965048.

OTLEY CHEVIN ORCHARD PROJECT GUARANTEED APPLES

We had an excellent crop in Autumn 2021 and with Wayzgoose Morris Team frightening away all those pesky fairies at our traditional Wassailing event Autumn 2022 will be just as good. Promise!

There's always something going on at the Chevin Orchard. We have hopes of increasing the flock of

Shropshire sheep and in early spring there'll be a work day or two for maintenance and tree planting.

So get your wellies polished up and keep an eye on our Facebook page [@otleychevinorchardproject](https://www.facebook.com/otleychevinorchardproject) for details.

It's always good to see new faces.



Volunteers Needed for Local Community based Charity



Do you have a few spare hours a week and would you like to give something back to our elderly community and make a difference to their lives?

Otle Action for Older People (OAOP) is a long established and successful community-based charity, providing daily activities and services for our members.

We are currently recruiting volunteers, in particular people willing to drive our minibuses. Our buses are on the road almost every day with a dedicated team of volunteer drivers at the wheel. Our drivers go through a one-day driving course (MIDAS) and shadow our current drivers before taking to the road. Working with a passenger escort, they pick up those who would otherwise not be able to get out and take them to lunch clubs, day trips, exercise classes and social events.

If you can help please get in touch with the office on 01943 463965 or email: info@otleyactionforolderpeople.org.uk

Supporting Independent Living
in Otley, Arthington and Pool-in-Wharfedale

WOULD YOU LIKE TO:

- Support a great cause?
- Share your skills and talent and experience a sense of pride and fulfilment?

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:

- Take Members to appointments and shopping
- Monitor our members
- Help at Lunch Club
- Admin

We Look Forward to Welcoming You into Our Team.
For a Volunteer Application Pack or Additional Information
Otle Action Older People at 01943 463965, or Email: info@otleyactionforolderpeople.org.uk
www.otleyactionforolderpeople.org.uk

The Chappendale Centre, Crossgate, Otley LS21 3AA Tel: 01943 463965

CHEVIN FOREST SCHOOL



This year's forest school sessions have been a great success. It's all been outdoors action. We have looked at animals in the pond and under logs. We have looked at trees and made art by using natural dyes. The children have loved creating dens that are waterproof. Our youngest visitors made mud paint and splattered it on white tarp to create a picture. Chevin Forest School will be happening at Gallows Hill Nature Area in the forthcoming months. Check out the website for events: chevinforestschoo.co.uk



WHARFEDALE GARDENERS' GROUP
www.wharfedalegardeners.co.uk

Covid continues to blight our activities, with lower attendance at our meetings and cancellation of our Christmas party. At the time of writing we are considering Zoom options, but one way or another we hope to enjoy talks by John Grimshaw, Ben Preston, Jill and Martin Fish and Maureen Sawyer. Holding our annual plant sale under the Buttercross last year was a great success so we will do this again on 21st May.

Wharfedale Gardeners began in 1947, evolving from the wartime Dig for Victory campaign. So 2022/23 is our 75th anniversary and we are planning our celebrations.



Photo: Members of Wharfedale Gardeners' Group Committee with Nick Bailey our speaker last October.

Dance into 2022 with the Buttercross Belles!



Since September, after months of Zoom meetings, the Buttercross Belles have been meeting mask to mask in St Joseph's Primary School from 7:45pm to 9:45pm every Thursday during term time. We welcome new musicians and dancers - no experience is necessary, just a desire to enjoy yourself. Masks are worn for practice and we have adapted all our dances and introduced new ones to our repertoire to ensure we are socially distanced.

We are looking forward to our first dance out on Mother's Day, hopefully followed by the May Day tradition of dancing the sun-up at dawn on The Chevin, which is a truly magical experience. Plans for an afternoon Maypole event are also under way for May Day. Invitations are now arriving, so we aim to perform at various festivals both locally and further afield this year.

Contact: squire@buttercrossbelles.com for a warm welcome.

OTLEY COURTHOUSE an arts and resource centre for everyone



Sunday 6th March 8pm

Daliso Chaponda: Apocalypse Not Now

Britain's Got Talent finalist and star of BBC Radio 4's Citizen of Nowhere, Daliso Chaponda is back out of the house and on stage with a new show full of his slick, sharp look at life.

Tickets £15

Saturday 19th March 8pm

The Greatest Magician - James Phelan

An astonishing, five-star-rated new magic show - presented by the magician who jammed the BBC switchboards after correctly predicting the lottery numbers.

Tickets £14.50

Sunday 20th March 7.30pm

The Comedy Network: Travis Jay, Josh Weller & Garrett Millerick

Our monthly comedy club returns with three more of the hottest comedians on the circuit. Gather your friends, grab a drink and see the biggest stars of tomorrow, today!

Tickets £14

Saturday 2nd April 2.30pm

Family Theatre: Little Grimm Tales

Join award-winning Box Tale Soup on an adventure for children aged 3+ inspired by a variety of fairy tales. The show features beautiful puppets, innovative theatre and spellbinding original music.

Tickets: £10 adults, £8 children (under 14)

Friday 29th April 8pm

The Shee: The Shadows Tour

Cross-Border folk multi-instrumentalists and festival favourites, The Shee are an exceptional all-female group playing an adventurous brew of Folk, Gaelic and Bluegrass music

Tickets £14

Saturday 7th May 7:30pm

Dr Annie Gray: Serving Winston - The Life and Times of Georgina Landemare, Churchill's Longest Serving Cook

Dr Annie Gray is one of Britain's leading food historians. Her talk will be a celebration of the life, career and food of Churchill's longest serving cook.

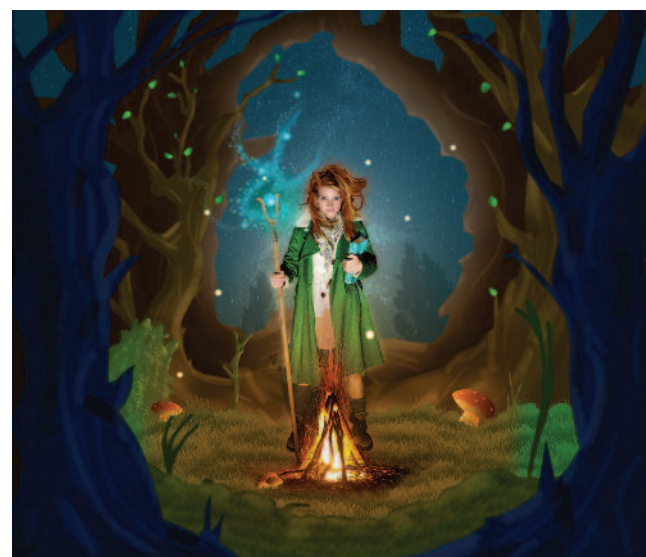
Tickets £17

Friday 13th May 8pm

Steve Tilston & Jez Lowe

Having embarked on their debut tour in 2015, Tilston & Lowe have since recorded an album of brand new co-writes which they will now be bringing to the stage.

Tickets £15



FILM AT OTLEY COURTHOUSE

There's a whole range of films scheduled at Otley Courthouse to help you get out and about again as the Spring season beckons. Tickets are bookable through the Otley Courthouse website.

Otle Film Society screen films at 7.45pm (bar from 7.15pm) (£5) on the following Thursdays:

EVERYBODY KNOWS

Thursday 3rd March - with Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem

FOR SAMA

Thursday 17th March - BAFTA winning, and Oscar nominated documentary

DARK WATERS

Thursday 7th April - with Mark Ruffalo and Anne Hathaway

A WHITE WHITE DAY

Thursday 21st April - Icelandic drama

SOUND OF METAL

Thursday 5th May - with Riz Ahmed

THE 2020 MYSTERY FILM!

Thursday 19th May - a last minute choice from recent award winners



Movie Matinees screen on the following Thursdays at 2pm (tea-coffee from 1.30pm) (£6)

10th March **Tolkien**

24th March **Dream Horse**

14th April **Cruella**

28th April **Goodbye Christopher Robin**

12th May **The Current War**

26th May **The Art of Racing in the Rain**

Other screenings

Thursday 10th March 7pm

The Book of Dust - from National Theatre Live **Tickets £15-£13**

Friday 11th March 7.30pm

I am Belmaya - for International Women's Day **Tickets £6**

Sunday 13th March 3pm

In search of Chopin **Tickets £9-£8**

Saturday 16th April 7pm

Cirque du Soleil: Dralion **Tickets £9-£8**

Sunday 22nd May 3pm

Maya the Bee 3: The Golden Orb - Family Film for World Bee Day **Tickets £6-£4**

Keep checking at www.otleycourthouse.org.uk, or (better still) join our mailing list for late additions

GROVE HILL OTLEY TENNIS CLUB

Ilkley Road (opposite Wharfedale Mills)

Tennis is the ideal outdoor activity for these Covid times. At Grove Hill Otley Tennis Club we can offer:

- 4 x recently refurbished floodlit tennis courts for play all year round
- Modern clubhouse with changing and catering facilities
- Resident coach Jonathan Sadler – classes for adults and children
- A warm welcome to players of all abilities
- Mix-in social play on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons
- Competitive play in both the Wharfedale and Leeds leagues
- As a member – access to spare courts any time (subject to booking schedule)
- LTA affiliation – including access to Wimbledon tickets by ballot
- Membership Fees include floodlights and balls – individuals-couples-families

If you would like to know more, please contact:

Chairman - Nick Smith 07877 736806

Coach – Jonathan Sadler 07980 556463



OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

This year's Otley Folk Festival is due to take place over the weekend 16th – 18th September. Headline artists so far include: Spiers & Boden, Rory McLeod and Lucy Ward; lots more artists will be announced in the coming weeks.

Events will feature concerts, street entertainment, pub sessions and sing rounds, a sea song session and a 'Jackie Leven Remembered' concert. Jackie was a great fan and supporter of Otley Folk Festival and included Otley in one or two of his songs.

The festival will start on Friday 16th September with the 'main day' being Saturday 17th and our, now traditional festival-ending concert at the Black Horse Stables on the afternoon of Sunday 18th.

OTLEY FOLK CLUB

The Otley Folk Club runs on every Wednesday evening at the Black Horse Hotel function room. Singers' nights run alternate weeks with guest artists on the other Wednesday. Artists booked so far for 2022 are: . . . Hazjak (9th February), Chris Manners (23rd February), Mic & Suzie Darling (23rd March), Lucy Ward (6th April) and Roisin Ban (18th May).

Everyone is welcome so come on in and have a listen; see you at the Black Horse.



Otley Parish
CHURCH

We are on our way to a new Vicar being appointed following the retirement of Graham Buttanshaw in November. The process takes time and we are seeking that the appointee will fittingly match the diverse needs of the congregation and the town.

We are grateful to many members of the church who help with different activities and services; also to local retired ministers and others from the Diocese who fill essential roles for the church and town.

Our church is a great, central, historic building, open each day for personal prayer or simply taking a look around. Come in and see the Saxon Cross display and the Bible story-filled stained glass windows. AND you're welcome to the services! The church is warm (physically, and we trust socially) since the renovations were completed in 2016. Sunday services are live-streamed and available afterwards on YouTube.

For more information visit www.otleyparishchurch.org

Otley Choral Society



Following a very successful performance of Messiah at the beginning of December, Otley Choral Society is now looking forward to further live performances during 2022. Hopefully the choir will be performing some new repertoire in a concert at Otley Parish Church on 26th March, *Mystical Songs* by Vaughan Williams and *Full Final Sacrifice* by Gerald Finzi. These will be performed along with the more familiar and beautiful *Requiem* by Faure.



Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evening from 7pm at Prince Henry's Grammar School in the lower hall, where full social distancing by members ensures Covid safety for everyone can be maintained. New members are always welcome. See www.otleychoral.org or social media for further information.



The Otley Science Festival Committee courageously went forward with plans for a 'live' Festival in November 2021, in spite of worries about possible restrictions and low attendance. Thanks to support from Otley Town Partnership, Otley Town Council, Leeds City Council and the Institute of Physics, the Festival was able to go ahead. All events were live except the Science Quiz. The Committee were very pleased to welcome a variety of speakers. These included Professor Richard Wiseman talking about 'The Luck Factor', Libby Jackson, who is a leading expert in human spaceflight, and local science presenter Marty Jopson, revealing the workings of the mobile phone.

The most popular events of the week were the school shows, especially 'The Cloud Factory' with presenter Sarah Bearchell, for pre-school

and Key Stage 1. *The Saturday Science Fair* was also very popular and made COVID safe by ventilation and a one-way system. A wide variety of stalls and activities were available both in and outside the building. Otley Library also took part again this year. The Committee were very pleased to welcome the offer by Sinclairs Paper Stationery Manufacturers to host guided tours of the Factory on two separate occasions. Numbers were limited for safety reasons and both events were sold out.

The next Science Café will take place at the Courthouse on Thursday 24th March. The café is just the place to sample some new science presented by those locally working on it. Tickets are £6 (under 18's are free) and are available from the Courthouse or www.otleycourthouse.org.uk



MALE VOICE CHOIR

Wharfedale Male Voice Choir has embarked on an ambitious programme of learning a completely new repertoire to supplement the well-tryed favourites that have historically comprised their programme. Musical Director Paul Hurst has drawn up a schedule of Songs from the Shows and traditional Folk Songs to rehearse during the months leading up to the Summer recess.

Despite all the problems caused by two years of Covid the choir has gone from strength to strength and is now looking forward to offering concerts in the Autumn. New members are always welcome and any enquiries should be directed to Choir Secretary Peter Roberts on 01943 463456.



U3A ATTRACTS NEW TRUSTEES

Four new trustees have been elected to join Otley's Angie Grain and her management team at Ilkley & District u3a. Guiseley man, Mark Hall, Bramhope's Sandra Nistri, Menston's Alison Middleton and Margaret McCabe from Yeadon bring their talent and expertise to the table. The geographic spread of the team reflects the determination to have more groups meeting in outlying towns and villages like Otley rather than being totally Ilkley based. Last year Otley u3a ambassadors had a bi-monthly presence at the Farmers Markets, talking to passers-by as well as holding regular drop-in sessions at Otley Core.



Ilkley u3a offers a range of activities to retired or semi-retired people in the Wharfedale area, providing fun and enjoyment for everyone. A reduced joining fee of £7 is available until July 2022. For more information, see the website at www.ilkeyu3a.org or watch the local press for drop-in dates.

Left to right Mark Hall, Alison Middleton, Sandra Nistri, and Margaret McCabe

Christmas Choirs



December 2021 wasn't a snow-covered winter wonderland, but Otley's choirs added some much-needed cheer by singing in the Market Place and Bay Horse Courtyard. Jen Pugh of Woolpack Music Studios, supported by Otley Town Council, invited local choirs, who appreciated the chance to showcase their talents. Shoppers enjoyed truly lovely harmonies and favourite carols. The choirs were the Woolpack Choir, Sally's Army, Wharfedale Male Voice Choir, the Chippendale Singers (who also

appeared in the Christmas Lights switch-on video), Singing for Pleasure, Sing Out and the Woolpack Ukulele Band (who played a two-hour set till their hands were frozen!). Generous passers-by donated £331.07 for the Otley Food Bank who said: "We are delighted the choirs chose the foodbank as their charity this Christmas. The kindness and generosity of people helps us to help those struggling within our community." We hope our amazing choirs will sing for Otley again next Christmas.

OTLEY TOWN PARTNERSHIP TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP CHANGES TO THE HIGHWAY CODE NOW IN FORCE

In late January, the Department for Transport launched a new edition of the Highway Code. This introduces a new "Hierarchy of Road Users" (new rule H1). Put simply, "those who could do the greatest harm have a higher level of responsibility to reduce the danger".

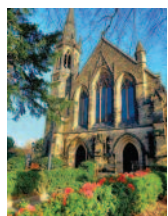
This change gives pedestrians and cyclists greater priority over cars at junctions and crossings (H3). For example, when a car is turning into a road or exiting a road, they should stop to let pedestrians cross (H2).

Drivers should open their car door using the "Dutch reach" method for example with their left hand on the driver door they are opening.

This makes drivers turn their heads to look over their shoulders and reduces the likelihood of hitting a passing cyclist with the door.

Drivers should also leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists at speeds of up to 30 mph and give them even more space when overtaking at higher speeds. In turn, cyclists will have greater responsibility to look out for people walking.

Members of the Otley Town Partnership Transport Action Group are concerned to ensure that everyone is made aware of these significant changes.



The Bridge Church

We continue to hold our 10:30am Family Service on Sunday mornings and our mid-week quiet Communion Service at 10:00am on Wednesday mornings, both held in our main sanctuary building accessed from Bridge Street and are adhering to relevant Covid guidelines which are in place at the time.

Our social groups also continue to meet in a Covid-safe manner, including:

Women's Meeting - Mondays at 2:30pm

Singing for Fun - Mondays at 7:30pm

Food and Friends - First Wednesday of month at 10:30am

The Bridge Cafe - Thursdays at 2:00pm for people living with dementia and their carers

Supper Club - alternate Thursdays at 7:45pm

T Club - alternate Thursdays at 8:00pm

Parents and Toddlers - all parents/carers and their under-fives are welcome from 9.30am to 11.00am on Thursdays and Fridays in term time.

For more details, please contact toddlers@otleybridgechurch.org.uk

Uniformed Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides - held weekday evenings, please contact our secretary for further details.



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 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 DOES INSTAGRAM!

Did you know there are some fantastic Instagram accounts featuring the best Otley has to offer?

@loveotley is one of the latest accounts to pop up in our feeds, with lots of engaging video content showcasing Otley's best places, independent businesses and more! This account is well worth a follow, as is our own **@visitotley**, that promotes events in the town for residents and visitors alike.

For spectacular photography of Otley and surrounding areas, follow **@yorkshirepix** - run by Steve Davey, keen nature & wildlife photographer and creator of last year's 'Hug on a Tray' calendar.

Another recent addition is **@a_view_of_otley** - off-beat photography taken of places you'll need to look at twice to recognise!

There are many more fantastic Instagram feeds packed with photography of Otley and its surrounding areas - great for inspiration and keeping up to date with what's going on in the town - here are a few more of our top picks:

@otley2030

@wildlifefriendlyotley

@otleyinbloom



OTLEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Otley Annual Achievement Award showcases the work of hardworking individuals within the town by recognising both a young person and an adult who have achieved something outstanding - be it 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 you can 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

TOWN MAYOR'S NEWS

Firstly, my best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Leading up to Christmas I was invited to several events. I opened two new shops, The Hug on a Tray Hub and Origin Fine Foods. Lesley Noble and her Hug on a Tray team work tirelessly raising funds for the Haematology wards in Bexley Wing at St James's Hospital. Origin Fine Foods is an established business, in Clayton, Bradford, selling all local produce. They chose Otley, when they wanted to expand their business, and I was delighted to be asked to open the shop and welcome them to the town.

Unfortunately, the Christmas lights switch on had to be a low-key event due to the pandemic. The switch on was filmed and the video posted on the Visit Otley website

On the 11th December I was invited to the family celebration for Norah Hollings's 100th birthday. I was so pleased to be invited and I was made to feel most welcome.

I was also invited to The Messiah, at the Parish Church, a Civic Carol Service, at St Giles Bramhope, and a Christmas Lunch at the Chippendale Centre, all very enjoyable events.

We are now looking forward to warmer weather and lighter nights, so let's hope that restrictions will soon ease and events in the town that had to be cancelled in the past two years are able to go ahead.





Your Images of Otley

The *Otley Through Time* feature in Otley Matters has proven to be very popular with readers, so we would like to continue with a new feature to publish your favourite photographs and images of Otley, be it from the past or present. Your photograph could be from the town's heritage, its famous landmarks and views, of local nature and wildlife, to those little known places.

If you would like to contribute to this feature then please send your hi-res photographs and your name for credit to otleymatters@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk and we will endeavour to feature as many as we can over the upcoming editions.



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



OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL MESSAGE BOARD

ROOMS FOR HIRE

Otley Core Resource Centre has rooms and exhibition space available for hire. The exhibition space is also available for use by charitable organisations as an indoor venue free of charge.

Should you wish to enquire about any of our facilities or make a booking, please contact a member of the Core liaison staff on **01943 466335** or e-mail: admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

Police Drop-in

Police contact point at the Otley Core every Wednesday (11am - noon) and Friday (2pm - 3pm)

OTLEY FOOD BANK

Otley Core is a donation point for the Otley Food Bank. Please help local people in crisis by donating items of food which have a long shelf life.

A shopping list is available at the collection point.

We thank you for your support.

Buttercross Charity Stall Hire

The Buttercross in Market Place is available for hire, free of charge, to all charitable organisations on Fridays and Saturdays. Anyone interested please contact a member of the Core liaison staff on **01943 466335** or email

admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Market Place Telephone Box

If you would like to advertise your activity, event or charity in the Red Telephone Box in Market Place please contact a member of the Core liaison staff on **01943 466335** or email admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Advertise your event at Otley Core

If you are a voluntary, youth, community or charitable organisation in Otley and would like to advertise an upcoming event, please send an A4 poster to admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk and we will display in the windows of the Otley Core.

There is also a larger window space available to advertise your activities and events - please contact a member of the Core Liaison team on **01943 466335** for more details and make a booking.

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

Vacant

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)
linda.hoare@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

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

PRINCE
HENRY
WARD

ASHFIELD
WARD

WEST CHEVIN
WARD

MANOR
WARD

DANEFIELD
WARD

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

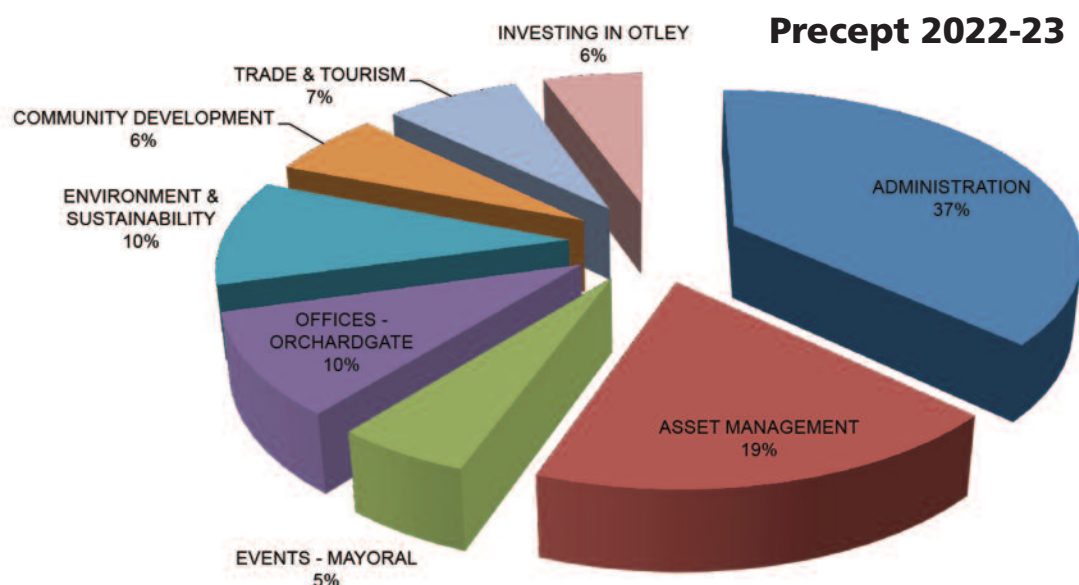
All councillors work in a voluntary capacity

COUNCIL BUDGET

Otley Town Council has approved a budget of £547,040 for the 2022/23 financial year of which £462,150 is required to be precept. This precept has therefore been frozen a second consecutive year. This represents £91.03 per annum (£1.75 per week) charge for a Band D property.

The chart opposite shows in broad-brush terms how the Council proposes to use its funds across the Council Committees.

Anybody who wishes to know more about the detail of the Council's finances and budget please contact Jason Knowles on 01943 466335 or by email at eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



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 MARCH 2022 - MAY 2022

Planning 21st March 2022
Trade & Tourism

Policy & Resources 28th March 2022
Full Council

Planning 25th April 2022
Environment & Sustainability

Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2022
(Subject to Covid restrictions to be held at the United Reformed Church, Bridge Street)

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.

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



NEXT EDITION

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