Otley Matters

March 2025
No 111

Otley Town Council, Otley Core Resource Centre, Unit 11, Orchard Gate, Otley, LS21 3NX. Tel: 01943 466335 · Email: otleymatters@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

OTLEY SHOW 2025



Saturday 17 May

The 2025 Otley Show will soon be here! This historic show began in 1796 and is the oldest one-day agricultural show in the country.

We are planning a fantastic day full of family fun entertainment. Accompanied children aged 16 and under now enjoy free entry, which is great value for families.

The incredible Imps Motorcycle Display team will be our main attraction, executing a spectacular performance of motorcycle skill.

The heart of the show is the traditional livestock classes – Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Eggs, Produce and Handicrafts, Farriers, Rabbits, Hamsters, and all being well, a Poultry Show, our first since 2019.

Closing date for entries is 17 April. You can download schedules for the main classes from the website www.otleyshow.org.uk. For the ever-popular Dog Show, entries are taken on the day.

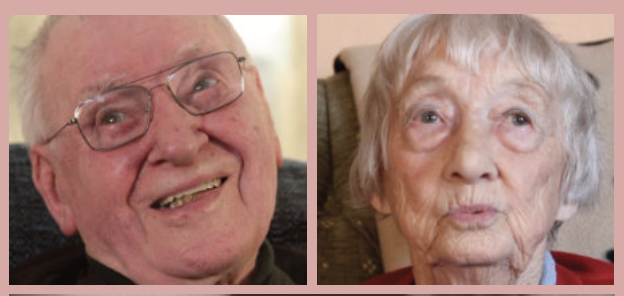
Contact Show Secretary Claudia on 07828 763632 or admin@otleyshow.org.uk

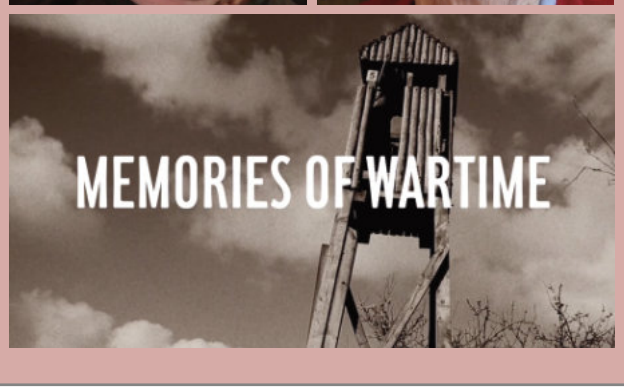
Sunday 18 May

The annual Classics on the Cobbles car show held in Otley Market Place will return in May from 10.00am until 4.00pm. This charity event is run by Chevin Motor Club members and features a range of classic cars from a range of manufacturers and eras. For more information, please visit www.chevinmotorclub.co.uk



AN EVENING TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY





Join us on Friday 9 May for a very special evening of remembrance and celebration.

Watch Catapult Films' 35-minute film, ***Memories of Wartime*** and celebrate the re-launch of Dr Jason Knowles' book ***Otley - Memories of World War Two.***

The evening will feature guest speakers and live music from a brass quintet and singer, all honouring the spirit of VE Day.

Date: Friday 9 May
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
Tickets: £5

The tickets are available from Otley Courthouse.

MAY Sunday 11 — THE ROB BURROW LEEDS MARATHON

Over 10,000 participants took to the streets of Leeds in 2024 for the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon and it will return again to Otley in May this year.

The marathon will honour Leeds Rhinos rugby legend Rob Burrow MBE and is being held in support of the Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Appeal as well as the MND Association. However, many participants have their own reasons for taking part and many will be raising money for a charity of their choice.

The route will again start on St Michael's Lane in Headingley and finish inside Headingley Stadium and will pass through Otley at miles 16 and 17. The circular marathon route will see runners enter Otley along the A659 from Pool, continue along Boroughgate then left on to Kirkgate, left on to Bondgate, and then on to Leeds Road via Gay Lane. The runners will then continue along the A660 towards Bramhope.

For an event of this scale, significant road closures will be required on the day. Many roads around Otley will start to close from 9.00am, although some limited closures may be necessary the day before. The roads affected include A659 Pool Road, Cross Green, Boroughgate, Kirkgate, Bondgate, Gay Lane, East Chevin Road, and A660 Leeds Road. Roads will re-open as soon as it is safe to do so/once the final runners have come through.

For full information about the event, including the details of the road closures, please go to www.runforall.com/events/marathon/leeds-marathon

To help with volunteering or if you would like to provide local entertainment, please visit www.runforall.com/eventeers

Bus service updates will be available via www.wymetro.com

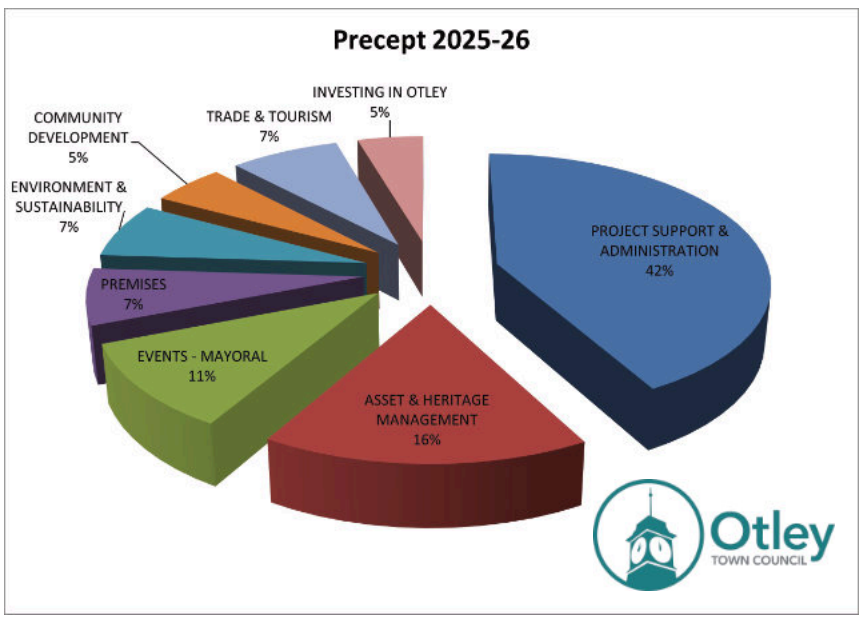


UPCOMING EVENTS

March	
9	**Otley Farmers' Market**
30	**Otley Farmers' Market**
April	
13	**Otley Farmers' Market**
27	**Otley Farmers' Market**
May	
1	**May Day Dance**
9	**VE Day Celebration**
11	**Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon**
17	**Otley Show**
18	**Chevin Motor Club - Classics on the Cobbles**
25	**Otley Farmers Market**

**Otley Market days held every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday*

OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2025-26 EFFICIENCY AND IMPACT



The Otley Town Council budget for 2025-26 ensures maximum value for money whilst delivering positive impact for our town.

The Council will invest to maintain Otley's traditions, heritage assets and events, but also work to improve our environment – for the benefit of residents, visitors and shoppers. There are playpark investments, better signage, new trees and other nature recovery initiatives - a vision for a better town at the cost of a small increase in local council tax of 3%, or 5p a week for a typical household.

Despite increased employment (especially national insurance) costs, this budget importantly keeps service levels intact: our public information service, the Town Centre toilets, street cleaning, flowers and the annual events – including the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, the Christmas Lights and Switch-on, family days at Gallows Hill and Garnett's Field - will all be maintained. 2025 will also see a new dipping pond at Gallows Hill, a new playpark at Weston Drive, new visitor trails to boost Otley's visitor economy, big investment in preparations for the Otley 800 events and continued support for local charities, events, organisations and community groups that do so much to make our town such a great place to live.

The Town Council's income is relatively small, but if aggregated and used well, it can make a real difference in our community. We have three key assets to help us do this: our people, our heritage property, and our partners. If we are prepared to invest time and money into local projects, we can often bring in outside money. This year, we have attracted outside investment into playpark improvements from Leeds City Council, which Otley asked for and Otley Town Council is jointly funding, and also new town centre signage, bike storage and car club parking thanks to contributions from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). There are possible other contributions from Active Travel England, WYCA and the private sector to come.

Budgets must follow promises of action. In Otley, residents should be able to see their contribution to Town Council income spent in the way they voted for and in a way that maximises efficiency and impact. We believe this budget does that.

A more detailed explanation of the Council's approach is available at www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk/news/otley-town-council-budget-statement-2025-2026



Sailor of the Year

At the British Yachting Awards 2024, local sailor Heather Thomas was announced as the winner of the prestigious Sailor of the Year Award.

Heather learned to sail at Otley Sailing Club and skippered the all-female 12-strong crew in their vessel Maiden to overall victory in the Ocean Globe Race.

The race took eight months to complete and covered 27,000 nautical miles comprising four legs, with boats racing from Cowes to Cape Town, Auckland, and Punta del Este in Uruguay, before returning to the UK.



After an extremely wet Carnival last year, the committee is starting to arrange the 2025 event, which will take place on Saturday 21 June. We are all hoping for much better weather this year.

The past year has been busy for ***Sarah's Stars***, who, as usual, have been brilliant ambassadors for the Otley Carnival. Some of their work has included visiting various older people's centres, carrying out litter picks, baking, helping with homeless hampers and helping to switch on the Christmas Lights. We would like to thank Toyland Toyshop for donating tokens to the ***Sarah Stars*** for all their hard work this year.

If you're interested in your child being considered as a ***Sarah Star***, our committee members will be visiting schools, or alternatively please email info@otleycarnival.co.uk

We are always looking for volunteers to join our hardworking team. So, if you are interested why not contact us? Or, if you can't commit to being on the committee but can spare a few hours on, or near the Carnival date, we'd like to hear from you. Some of the tasks involve setting up the Carnival field, putting up Carnival notices, stewarding the parade, litter picking on the day and helping to clean up the field after the event.

To get involved in any capacity, please email volunteer@otleycarnival.co.uk or visit info@otleycarnival.co.uk

OTLEY FOLK CLUB

Otley Folk Club is every Wednesday at the Black Horse Hotel. Music starts at 7.45pm. Our singers nights can attract a wide range of talent, folk singers, poets and musicians, and everyone is welcome to have a go or just come and listen and join in where appropriate.

On alternate weeks, the club hosts guest nights; artists already confirmed for 2025 include Pete Coe, Jim & Lynnette Eldon, Mic & Susie Darling, Blues legend Dave Speight, guitar virtuoso Dariush Kanani, local hero C J. Smith, singer/songwriter Carrie Martin and Folk Royalty Phil Beer.

Our full list of events is available online at Otley Folk Club. We hope to see you at the Black Horse.

OTLEY FOLK FESTIVAL

19-21 September 2025

This year's Otley Folk Festival will be the thirty-fourth and will be held over the weekend of 19-21 September. The venues will be the usual suspects with the Parish Church being our top Friday/Saturday site and the Black Horse Hotel, Labour Club, Shadow Brewing and St Joseph's School also contributing.

Once again, our sponsors will include Craven BrewCo, The Old Cock, The Black Horse and many of the festival programme advertisers. We'll be putting our line-up of artists on the website soon and with the help of our ever-growing wealth of local talent, we are confident that a great weekend is in store.

If anyone in Otley would like to be involved or can help out in any way, please contact us: otleyff@hotmail.com

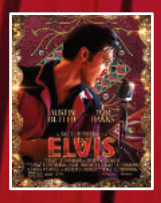
FILM FOR ALL AT OTLEY COURTHOUSE

Otley Courthouse screens over 60 films every year, aimed at as many different audiences as possible, and all films are open to everyone.

Upcoming screenings (7.45pm on Thursdays - £5 on the door):

March 6: **Fremont**
March 20: **La Chimera**
April 10: **Monster**
April 24: **RMN**
May 8: **Robot Dreams**
May 22: **Mystery film (tbc)**

The following **Movie Matinees** films will be screened on Thursdays at 2pm (£6 including tea & biscuits from 1.30pm)



March 13: **The Critic**
March 27: **Thelma**
April 3: **The Old Oak**
April 17: **Twisters**
May 1: **Juror #2**
May 15: **Elvis**



Other one-off upcoming screenings (7.45pm on Thursdays - £5 on the door):

Thursday 13 March 7.30pm: Otley Film Society and the London Mountain Film Festival – a series of short films about mountains and the great outdoors! £6

Sunday 16 March 7.30pm: Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers £9 (£8 Courthouse Friends)

Thursday 19 June 7.30pm: Dawn of Impressionism – Paris 1874 £9 (£8 Courthouse Friends)

Other films / NTL screenings may be added to the programme as they become available.

Full details can be found at:
www.otleycourthouse.org.uk and www.otleyfilmsociety.org.uk

Wharfedale Male Voice Choir

As we approach Easter we look back at another successful Spring. After an enjoyable run-up to Christmas we have had the pleasure of singing at several Retirement Villages in Otley and Lower Wharfedale and we are delighted that we have been able to perform music from our latest repertoire.

The diary for the rest of the year is already filling fast but the Choir is always interested in new places to perform. If your organisation is interested in being entertained, please call the Secretary for a chat.

The Choir has enjoyed an encouraging growth in membership during recent months and is always looking for gentlemen who enjoy singing and having some fun on Monday afternoons. We regard the ability to read music as a bonus, but it is by no means essential. Anybody interested in joining us should call Secretary Peter Roberts on 01943 463456.

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH



We are privileged to have an identifiable and accessible location with a presence here for more than a millennium. We constantly seek to be welcoming to all generations.

The door is open to come into the building during the daytime, and we are glad that some come in to pray, or for a safe space, to view this historic building or to attend a service. Please visit our website www.otleyparishchurch.org has details of what is due to happen under the header 'A Place for Everyone, with Christ at the Centre'. Alongside other churches in Otley we pray for the message of the love of God in the Cross of Christ to be 'got' by many. As this piece is sent out in March it won't be long until the Easter Cross goes up again on the Chevin.

As with other historic buildings, the challenges of becoming 'carbon net zero' are huge. We have an excellent team seeking to model good practice.

OTLEY WOMEN'S GROUP

In December the Otley Women's Group (OWG) was established as a free women's community social, peer, mental health support group, created by sole facilitator Claire Matthews, a mother, wife, registered nurse and psychotherapist who was inspired by the Otley Men's Group, another non-profit independently run mental health support group.

OWG welcomes all women of Otley and surrounding areas who might enjoy some positive social interactions. A confidential weekly meeting aimed at those who might be struggling with bereavement, loneliness, abuse or be trauma victims/survivors, new to town or simply those who want to make new connections.

With no funding in place we would like to thank Erin May, the owner of local café *'Olive and Fig'*, for kindly allowing the group to use her café to run the weekly meetings completely free of charge. To be fully inclusive, OWG are now renting The Chippendale Centre. Continuous monthly financial sponsorships are needed to help pay directly for the rental fees of the new venue the first continuous sponsor being The Bookshop on the Square.

Claire has also welcomed a co-facilitator, Janet Jackson, a local retired hairstylist, wife, mother, carer and mental health first aider. Together they continue volunteering, supporting and seeking new local business sponsors to ensure the smooth continuous running and delivery of this free service to the women of our town.

WHAT'S ON AT OTLEY COURTHOUSE?

Wednesday 19 March: **Matt Rendell's Inside Stories** *(Tickets: £16)*

Join ITV Tour de France commentator Matt Rendell for an entertaining evening as he shares stories from 25 years covering cycling's biggest names, including Eddy Merckx and Bradley Wiggins, plus personal tales and thought-provoking insights.

Sunday 30 March: **National Theatre Live: Dr Strangelove** *(Tickets: £15)*

Seven-time BAFTA winner Steve Coogan stars in Dr. Strangelove, a stage adaptation of Stanley Kubrick's classic satire. Co-adapted by Armando Iannucci, it's a surreal, explosively funny tale of a nuclear crisis and global destruction. *(Recorded Screening)*

Friday 18 April: **The Bridge: A Cuban Guitar Story** *(Tickets: £17)*

Cuba's acclaimed guitar duo, The Bridge, unites generations through the music of Grammy-nominated composer Eduardo Martín. Their performances merge classical styles, rock, and Cuban rhythms, offering a rich tapestry of South American culture, from rumbas to cinematic pieces.

Saturday 26 April: **The Steelers: The Music of Steely Dan** *(Tickets: £16}*

The Steelers, a 9-piece UK band, perform Steely Dan classics from iconic albums like AJA and Pretzel Logic. Expect faithful renditions of timeless tracks with clever lyrics, superb arrangements, and exceptional musicianship for fans old and new.

Saturday 3 May: **Ed Patrick: Catch Your Breath** *(Tickets: £16/£14 NHS Tickets)*

Join NHS anaesthetist, comedian, and author Ed Patrick for a hilarious show about life as a junior doctor, the NHS, and modern medicine. As seen on Channel 4 and heard on BBC Radio 4. *Age 16+ (must be accompanied by an adult)*

Sunday 17 May: **Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act** *(Tickets: £17)*

The year is 1916. Holmes returns from Sussex for Watson's funeral, facing 'the last act' of his career. Nigel Miles-Thomas delivers a tour de force, playing 14 characters in this gripping and acclaimed theatrical production.

Friday 20 June: **Budapest Café Orchestra** *(Tickets: £21)*



The Budapest Café Orchestra, led by violinist Christian Garrick, blends gypsy, folk, and Romantic music with astonishing skill. Their four-piece ensemble creates a vibrant sound, featuring accordion, violin, guitar, and more. Expect a lively, unforgettable performance full of surprises and musical mastery.

Otley COURTHOUSE

Otley Choral Society

Otley Choral Society has spent the winter months rehearsing for their next concert on 22 March at St Margaret's church in Ilkley. The choir, along with Ilkley Choral Society, will be performing Dvorak's glorious ***Stabat Mater*** and tickets are available from Browns Gallery or The Grove Bookshop.

Then, on 7 June, the choir ends their season with a performance of the ever-popular choral classic, Haydn's ***Creation***, at Otley Parish church. Tickets will be available from the usual outlets.

New members are always welcome to join the choir; a love of singing and music are the only requirements and members can enjoy making new friendships and getting to know new composers and pieces.

The choir rehearses every Tuesday evening between 7.00pm and 9.00pm at Prince Henry's Grammar school. Just come along, meet us, and try out an evening of singing!!



Photo: John Northover

After the success of last year's Annual Exhibition, Otley Camera Club is delighted to announce the exhibition will run again at the Parish Church in Otley. The event will take place on Saturday 31 May and Sunday, 1 June, promising to be even bigger and better this year.

The club is already hard at work planning the exhibition, which will feature a showcase of photography from its talented members. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of activities, including the ever-popular tombola and a delicious cake sale, both of which were crowd favourites last year.

Mark your calendars, and we'll see you there.



Helping Hedgehogs in Springtime

In 2024, we cared for over 500 hedgehogs and raised awareness through 60+ talks at schools and local groups. We also partner with the University of Leeds to support hedgehog conservation research, even providing hedgehog poop for student studies!

Thank you to everyone who supported us with donations, food, and fundraising. If you're planning some spring tidying in the garden, be mindful that a pile of old leaves in the corner might still be home to a hibernating hedgehog. If you happen to disturb one, gently cover it back up and leave it undisturbed.

We're planning a fundraising event during National Hedgehog Awareness Week in May, focusing on replacing our ageing rescue building. Built in the 1960s, it's struggling to meet the needs of our growing patient numbers and is costly to heat and to keep cool.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates. If you find a hedgehog in need, call us on 07434 626832. For more tips, please visit www.pricklypigs.co.uk

Prickly Pigs Hedgehog Rescue

LEEDS SAILING AND ACTIVITY CENTRE



Come and try some of the outdoor activities we offer, either booking a place on one of our Open Days or a Taster session or book on to a course to gain those skills to be independent on the water.

The centre is situated at Tarnfield Park in Yeadon and offers Sailing, Kayaking, Open Canoeing, Stand-Up Paddleboarding, Improvised Rafting, Windsurfing, Rowing, Orienteering, Off-Road Biking, Problem Solving, Bushcraft, Soft Archery, Indoor Cave and Team Building.

Tailored packages for schools, colleges, youth/community groups, business team building days, Room Hire and much more. We also offer Gift Vouchers for those special occasions.

To contact us, email sailingcentre@leeds.gov.uk or call 0113 376 0798 for more information.

www.active.leeds.gov.uk/our-centres/leeds-sailing-and-activity-centre

Otley Sailing Club

Otley Sailing Club wish to thank the businesses and community of Otley who helped us surpass our fundraising target of £15,000 in support of 'Sailing for Disabled Children at Otley'.

We will use the £15,000 raised to buy two Access Boats for our Sailability Programme. Our team of volunteers help children from local specialist schools, reach their full potential through the joys and challenges of sailing.

Our subsequent Stretch Target raised additional funds to buy the trolleys and covers required to look after and use our purchases. We even raised some money to help with next year's running costs!

We were overwhelmed by the support received from the public and businesses of Otley. Many thanks for your help, and rest assured all your donations go directly to support the great work that our team of volunteers do with these deserving children.



Ilkley & District u3a

Ilkley & District u3a runs a host of interest groups and activities for those no longer in full-time work or semi-retired. Groups include Art for Fun, Sewing, Photography, Reading for Pleasure, Board Games and Bridge, all based in Otley. Or maybe you have a hobby or interest you'd like to share with others?

Interested in theatre or film outings but you'd rather not go alone? Our Go With group may be just the thing.

Discover what's on offer at Ilkley & District u3a by chatting to our members at our Drop-In sessions at The Core or come along to one of our monthly coffee mornings. You will be warmly welcomed, and it is possible to attend a couple of taster sessions before deciding whether to join. Our current membership offer is £15 until July 2025, magazine subscription included.

More information can be found at www.ilkleyu3a.org (Look for the Otley section on our website Home page) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

TALKING NEWSPAPERS

Wharfedale Talking News doesn't just produce an audio version of the Wharfedale Observer and the Ilkley Gazette, it also has suggestions for radio programmes and audio-described television that you might like.

There are also several items from the Talking News National Federation, which are chosen to be of interest to people with visual problems. Sometimes there's a quiz. We also produce a monthly magazine from publications like The Dalesman, The Oldie and Saga magazine, and a variety of other publications.

If you would like to hear articles from other magazines let us know. And as you now know we also read Otley Matters so our listeners don't miss out.

Would you like to help to create our talking paper? We need volunteers to keep the Talking Newspapers going. Could you: read, record, edit, produce or sort the listeners' wallets? Or would you like to join as a listener?

SPONSORED BY OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Email: info@wharfedaletalkingnews.org.uk



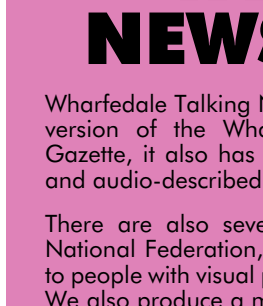
Winter, though quieter, always keeps us busy with many 'hidden' preparation jobs. The beds in Wharfe Meadows have been tended to allow all the plants to flourish and prevent the more thuggish ones from taking over. We've added pansies to the barrier planters throughout the town and added bulbs to the planters on Burras Lane and in front of the 'Welcome to Otley' stone on Leeds Road - all to ensure we get some early flowering colour for us and our wildlife.

Thanks go to Bill Austin, our exiting chairman, for his five years of service to Otley in Bloom, as we welcome Elaine Hannan as our new Chairlady!

Otley in Bloom

We've a list of 'jobs to do' as we anticipate the warmer weather, so if you fancy a bit of snipping, pruning and a bit of general chit chat, contact us at www.otleyinbloom.co.uk

Wharfedale Gardeners' Group



We rounded off 2024 with our Christmas Party. Sam (joint Chair) demonstrated making a gorgeous natural winter garland. The shared 'banquet', a real feast, was a fitting end to the season

The new year began with a talk from TV presenter, Nick Bailey, then came Doug Stewart from RHS Bridgewater. Following our AGM our March meeting welcomes Paul Cook from Harlow Carr, April will see Sasha York from Hutton Wandesley and our final talk and demonstration in May is by Sarah Richardson from Leafy Couture. The ever-popular Plant Sale will be at the Buttercross in Market Place on 16 May.

We meet at Beech Hill Church on the second Tuesday of each month from September through to May, at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us or come as a guest for an evening, please contact Christine at wharfedalegardeners@gmail.com or see www.wharfedalegardeners.com

Wharfedale Gardeners' Group Est 1947

Chippendale Singers

The Chippendale Singers have been out entertaining local audiences at Christmas with well loved carols and Christmas songs. Groups from the choir sang to visitors at the Otley Courthouse craft market during the Victorian Fayre. A group also visited Clifton Village Hall's Christmas party to lead the singing of popular carols.

On Friday 6 December the choir and children from Westgate Primary School sang to parents and friends as part of the Parish Church's Christmas Tree Festival. This was a particularly poignant performance as Helen Carpenter, the head teacher, who has conducted her choir at this concert for ten years, is moving on to another post. We wish Helen all the best in her new job and hope the children at Westgate continue to enjoy singing and will be with us again in the future.

At present the choir are busy rehearsing for Spring and Summer concerts, details of which will appear on the website. www.chippendalesingers.co.uk



The monthly Chevin Forest School supports a child's healthy development, including emotional, cognitive, physical development and appreciating nature. Recently at the Chevin Forest School the children have been very creative making stick men from the resources they have found in the wood at Gallows Hill Nature Reserve. They have learnt how to use secateurs safely and cut their sticks to size. This type of environmental art is great fun and a huge learning activity. The children learnt sequencing and ordering, deciding which sticks to use, problem solving, exploring the properties of materials which are the best for the job, extending vocabulary and using their imagination. We always finish the session by singing songs and have a fire with marshmallows. For more information: www.chevinforestschool.co.uk

Adult only swimming every Friday evening at the Chippendale Swimming Pool (7.00pm – 8.00pm). Cost £6 per adult (cash only).

Also on Friday evening, adult only swimming lessons 7.00pm – 8.00pm. We also run children's swimming lessons from age 3 upwards between 5.30pm – 7.00pm. To find out more, email swimsplashlearn@gmail.com or telephone 07734 424531. Follow us on Facebook for more information.





Cycling for Health

Otley Town Council is excited to launch *Cycling for Health*, a series of short, guided bike rides designed to help you stay active while exploring the beautiful scenery of Otley and its surrounding areas.

These beginner-friendly rides offer a gentle introduction to cycling, perfect for anyone looking to boost their fitness in a supportive and social environment. Whether you're new to cycling or returning after some time away, this is a great way to build confidence and enjoy the outdoors.

Starting in spring 2025, the sessions will take participants on scenic routes around Otley and the nearby countryside. The focus is on beginner-level, gentle exercise, with an option to use one of our e-bikes if you'd like some extra assistance along the way.

In addition to the cycling sessions, we're continuing to promote our popular *E-Bike Trial Scheme*, which proved busy and successful last year. The scheme allows you to trial an e-bike for up to two weeks, free of charge, to see how it fits into your lifestyle before making a purchase. Whether you're considering commuting, shopping, or family trips, the e-bike trial is an excellent opportunity to experience the benefits firsthand.

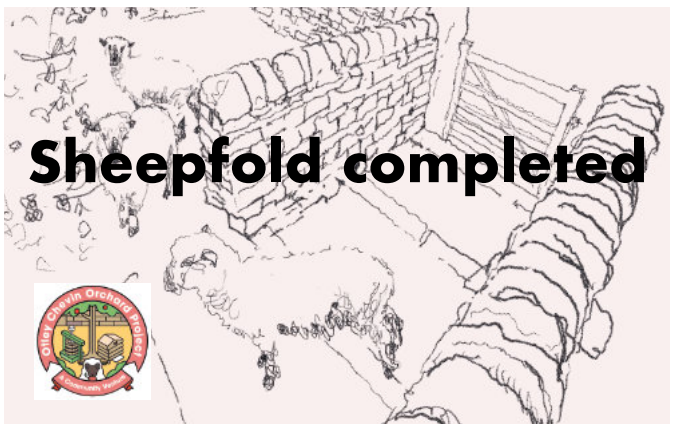
E-bike hire is available in pairs, and we also offer a Burley bike trailer, perfect for carrying children or shopping. If you'd like to explore potential hire dates, get in touch, and we'll be happy to discuss availability.

To express your interest in either the *Cycling for Health* sessions or the *E-Bike Trial Scheme*, please email **bikes@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk**

OTLEY GREEN FAIR

Join in the nationwide BIG GREEN WEEK and come free to Otley's very own Green Fair on Saturday 7 June (10.00am – 4.00pm). There will be stalls with information about sustainable lifestyles and how to get involved in promoting the wellbeing of the planet. Local craftspeople will be selling hand-made goods. There will be a raffle as well as a variety of workshops and entertainment for adults and children.

The café will be open serving a special menu featuring vegetarian and vegan food as well as Fair Trade snacks and drinks. Further details will be available on the Otley Courthouse website.



Thanks to Wharfedale Drystone Wallers for an excellent addition to the Chevin.

The Orchard Project continues to develop with our juicing sessions and workdays bringing in ever increasing membership.

There are always jobs to be done – especially in Winter. There will be pruning sessions, hedge planting and general maintenance. So keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming events @otleychevinorchardproject



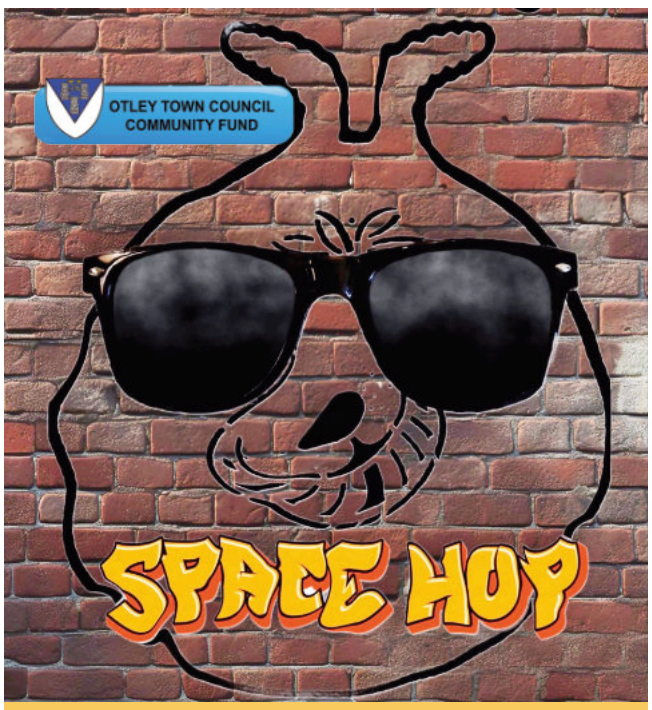
OTLEY CYCLE CLUB

Otley Cycle Club have recently committed £10,000 to local projects supporting children's cycling and community activities within the Otley area. One of these projects was the joint funding, along with Friends of Ashfield, of a cycle shelter and bike rack for Ashfield Primary School.

Watched by some of the pupils who regularly cycle to school, Tony Wild, President of Otley Cycle Club, officially opened the cycle shelter and said "Otley Cycle Club are committed to encouraging children's cycling in the local family of schools and so encouraging healthy young lives."

Their enthusiasm was summed up by two of the pupils. Anna, aged nine, "There are slopes on the way to school and I love going really fast!" whilst Stanley, aged eight, said "I just like cycling".

Headteacher Elspeth Warren commented "It's fabulous to have the bike shelter so that we don't have any soggy bottoms on the way home!"



Otley Space are currently planning on delivering a youth enrichment program in collaboration with two incredible artists, hyrograff and happyhiphop (see Instagram). This project will run for a period of 5-6 weeks in the new year based at Otley Social Club. We recognise that there is a lack of provision for young people aged 12-17 and so we are bringing hiphop music, dance and graffiti art workshops to Otley. Young people will learn the art of breaking, djing, and the basics of graffiti art so they may grasp the creative elements, learn the correct etiquette and enjoy the benefits of creativity and self-expression. This will culminate in a community celebration to showcase their skills and finished art piece.

This project has only been made possible thanks to the generosity of Lottery Awards for All and Otley Town Council as well as local building company Basil Houldsworth & Sons.

You can support us through our go fund me - Otley Spacehop, follow us on Facebook @otleyspace or contact us at otleyspace@gmail.com



OTLEY SQUASH CLUB

Otley Squash Club held the Finals of their inaugural Club Racketball Tournament. After a hard-fought match, Paul Higgins emerged the winner beating Sam Yeates 2-1. The tournament was played during November and December with the Semis and Final played in front of an enthusiastic group of Members. After the Trophy presentation Paul commented "I really enjoyed the competition and, although my preference is still to play squash, I find racketball a fun game with lots of good rallies. I was so pleased to win in the end!"

Racketball has grown in popularity among Otley Squash Club Members. The bouncier ball makes the game easier to play for beginners and puts less pressure on the joints for experienced players, allowing them to stay active into their seventies and beyond.



Otley Walking Festival

28 June – 6 July

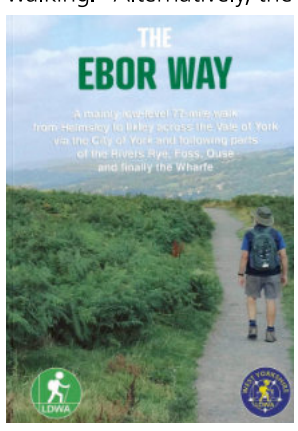
Get your boots polished. The popular Otley Walking Festival is back and the programme's looking good. With 40+ walks and events over the nine days of Otley Walking Festival, there really is something for everyone - short town-based walks, meadows and field paths, strenuous moorland hikes, entertaining evening events, including old favourites and new themed walks. Otley Walking Festival showcases our historic market town and the wonderful Wharfedale countryside we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep. A warm welcome from walk leaders, meeting friendly folk, enjoying the great outdoors – what's not to like!

The programme will be available from Easter – online and in local venues. Some walks require booking – please check the programme carefully as turning up on spec won't be possible for all walks.

Check www.otleywalkingfestival.co.uk for the latest updates.

NEW EBOR WAY GUIDEBOOK

The West Yorkshire Group of the Long-Distance Walkers Association (LDWA) have produced a new Guide Book for the Ebor Way. The Ebor Way is a linear walk of 77 miles starting in Helmsley, ending in Ilkley (via the Otley Chevin), across the Vale of York via the City of York and following parts of the Rivers Rye, Foss, Ouse and finally the Wharfe. The walk is mainly low level and could be completed comfortably in around four or five days continuous walking. Alternatively, the walk can be walked in sections over a period of time. The guidebook clearly sets out the sections with easy to follow maps together with a written narrative.



The guidebook is available at the following bookshops: Caring for Life in Cookridge, Mounsey's Book Shop and Bookshop on the Square in Otley and the Grove Book Shop in Ilkley (Cost £5.99) and is also available via West Yorkshire LDWA's website (Cost £8.00 includes p+p).



The End of an Era

Otley Town Partnership began in May 1998. It was set up as a voluntary organisation led by a Board of Directors whose aim was always to promote Otley in a variety of different ways.

Over the last 26 years there have been many Directors, only three of whom are still involved: Peter Heald, Mike Silverwood and David Wilkinson.

The Town Partnership has successfully run, although not all at the same time, Farmers' Markets, the Victorian Fayre, The Food and Drink Festival, sponsored community-based activities and two monthly working groups – Environment and Transport.

A decision to cease trading was made in July 2024.

The Town Partnership is a "not for profit" company and any funds remaining in the bank when we ceased to trade must be put back into the town. We are proud to announce that since July we have donated over £34,000 to many different community groups. The last few thousands in the bank are also accounted for.

These are the names of the last Directors of Otley Town Partnership: Steph Lee, Peter Heald, David Wilkinson, Mike Silverwood, Richard Pulleyn and accountant Tony Massarella.

FESTIVE FOOD BANK COLLECTION



A group of Sixth Formers from Prince Henry's organised a food bank donation appeal as part of their studies. Students across Years 12 and 13, as well as staff, donated to the appeal.

Student Abi Rudd-Watson said: "It was eye-opening to learn what the food bank does and how it supports the local community. It is heartwarming to see all the donations that we have received and how much it will help people. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated, as well as to the food bank volunteers themselves!"

Mrs Vicki Robinson-Junni, Student Leadership and Post-16 Manager, said: "The organising group have done brilliantly - making sure their fellow students and the staff know how to take part and what donations the Otley Food Bank needs. This is part of our commitment to our local community, working with local organisations to support that community."

Royal Wharfedale Lodge



We meet in our individual Lodges throughout the country where we uphold traditions which encourage us to be more tolerant and respectful and to actively fulfil our civic and charitable responsibilities; we also make time to eat, drink and form lifelong friendships.

In Otley we meet at Westbourne House, and welcome new members who want to be inspired and challenged to practise the core values we celebrate – Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Charity – in their private and public lives, to cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large.

If you would like to learn more, contact us at secroyalwharfedale@gmx.co.uk or check out our website www.royalwharfedalelodge.co.uk

Freemasonry is a unique organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. Having no political or religious affiliations, we have members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds.



Volunteer with Otley Action this Spring

Otley Action for Older People provide a wide range of services to the older people of Otley, Pool in Wharfedale and Arthington. This includes practical support, advice and information, transport, social and health activities and social care. There are currently over 1,500 older people registered with us that are supported by a team of over 100 volunteers. Volunteers help in the office and reception, drive and assist on our minibuses and take people shopping and to appointments in their own cars. They also help at lunch clubs, and coffee events and parties throughout the year. They also give one-to-one support by befriending, dog walking, helping with I.T. and practical tasks. Our volunteers are a unique and diverse group of individuals who really make a difference to our community. If you would like to join us or find out more about us, please contact 01943 463965.

A fun wildlife day at The Whartons



In late 2024, The Whartons Primary School hosted an engaging Wildlife Day in partnership with Wildlife Friendly Otley. The event connected students with nature, teaching them to protect and preserve local wildlife.

Activities included: bulb planting, habitat walks and wildlife hunts, where children explored their nature-friendly school grounds. A highlight was a special guest bringing real bats, captivating students with close-up views and lessons on their ecosystem role.

Outdoor learning shone as students discovered habitats, identified plants, and gained hands-on conservation experience. The school expressed gratitude to Neil, Helen, and Edwina from Wildlife Friendly Otley, along with local businesses like Otley Garden Centre, Moss & Moor, and Lorraine Little for donating plants and seeds.

The event inspired curiosity and a love for nature, underscoring the school's commitment to fostering environmental stewardship in students. It was a memorable day filled with discovery and fun.

OTLEY SUSTAINABLE BUILDING AWARD 2025

Otley Town Council Sustainable Building Awards are being launched in 2025. The award has been developed to recognise, promote and encourage excellence in sustainable building practices in Otley, for both new build and renovated properties.

A number of criteria relating to carbon efficiency and regard for the local environment and economy will be considered when selecting award winners.

There will be up to three awards made in any one year under the following categories (a maximum of one award per category):

A new or refurbished building outside the conservation area
A new building within the conservation area
A refurbished building within the conservation area

Eligibility Criteria

- The awards are open to individuals or businesses and are free to enter
- Projects for consideration must be located within the Otley Parish Boundary
- Work should normally have been completed within the last two years

The awards are not monetary and will be awarded at the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 May 2025.

If you believe that your new build/refurbished property deserves recognition in the 2025 awards, you can enter by sending an application including any supporting evidence against the criteria. The application form is available on the Town Council website www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk or by email admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Thursday 13 March 2025 at 4.00pm.



Otley Science Festival 2024

'The Magical Mr West' began the festival with a popular family show 'Adventures in Science' at Otley Courthouse. The Children's Centre successfully hosted this year's Early Explorers for under five's, with record attendance. Three days of school shows included 'Pyrotrickery' with Matthew Tosh and 'Animal Top Trumps' with Jess French and Ben Garrod.

For adults there was the classic film 'The Day the Earth Stood Still', a Science Café with three interesting speakers and 'From Grain to Glass, the Science behind Beer' with Ilkley Brewery.

Main speakers this year were Professor Dr Helena Daffern on 'The Science of the Singing Voice', Professor Dame Jane Francis on 'When Antarctica was Green' and Rashik Parmar on 'AI Technology - Evolution and Ethics'.

The traditional free Science Fair at the end of the week was, as usual, very well attended.

Many thanks to Leeds City Councillors (MICE money), Otley Town Partnership and The Institute of Physics for their continued support.



FUTURE WESTON PROJECT

Otley 2030's 'Future Weston' project has enjoyed a successful year. The project, funded by WYCA through Leeds City Council's Community Climate Grant and delivered in partnership with Wildlife Friendly Otley, aimed to achieve climate, energy and biodiversity benefits in the Weston area.

Solar panels were fitted to both Otley Social Club and Weston Lane Sports and Social Club, and there was an Energy Saving Drop-In with free expert advice. As part of the project's ambitious nature targets, a Community Garden has been developed at Weston Lane Juniors, including wildflower beds, a bench and an information board with artwork designed by pupils from Ashfield Primary. Orchard trees as well as spring bulbs have been planted around Weston playpark.

Earlier this year, Otley 2030 surveyed residents of the Weston Ward and held a series of workshops to find out what community members would like to see happen in the future. The project team hope to secure more funding to continue and enhance what has already been achieved. For more info, email comms@otley2030.com



TOWN MAYOR'S NEWS

In the past few weeks, I have been delighted to be invited to a variety of events, some in Otley and others elsewhere.

In November I opened the impressively refurbished premises of Althams travel agents, and later in that month there was a tabletop sale at The Core in aid of my two charities, Otley Action for Older People and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

The weeks leading up to Christmas saw a very welcome number of invitations. I was accompanied by the Reverend Jason McCullagh to the Wakefield Civic Carol Service, a magnificent occasion, and my husband, Douglas, and I thoroughly enjoyed a carol service at the seventeenth-century Bramhope Puritan chapel, a grade I listed building. There could have been no greater contrast than between these two services, each equally impressive in its own way.

Otley's Christmas celebrations began for me when I switched on the Christmas lights, and it was heartwarming to see so many children braving the cold and damp to enjoy the evening. I opened the annual Victorian Fayre, which was a great success, with a higher-than-ever number of attenders, many of whom from outside Otley told me how impressed they were with their visit to the town. Even the weather co-operated, with a dull and rainy morning developing into a fine and sunny afternoon.

I have been very honoured to receive an invitation from the Mayor of Montereau, our twin town in France, to visit them on the occasion of their 'Fiers de Montereau' ('Proud of Montereau') celebrations. Douglas and I are greatly looking forward to flying the flag for Otley and to welcoming a French delegation to our town in the future, to show them how proud we are of our own very special town.

As I mentioned in the last issue, I very much enjoy meeting people who stop me in the street for a chat. Do please keep doing this! You may often find me at lunchtime on Friday in the Chippendale Centre, at the Community Cafe.

My continued thanks go to Ryan Davidson, the Mayor's Secretary, and Emma Bradley, who do such a good job of managing my diary.

Honorary Citizens

Otley Town Mayor Cllr Penny Robinson 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 Wednesday 12 March.

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

OTLEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

If you know of anyone who has achieved something outstanding or made a significant contribution to our town during 2024 then we would like to hear from you, by nominating them now for the 2024 Otley Achievement Award.

This award celebrates achievements made during the year with the winner recognised with 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 Wednesday 12 March. Please return all nominations by this date to Jason Knowles or e-mail: eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

MOVE MATES

We are a small charity called Move Mates. We make going for a walk a reality for anyone 18+ who is struggling to leave their home.

We pair people with a fully trained volunteer to get out for a weekly one-to-one walk in the local area. We aim to increase confidence in being outdoors, improve general health and wellbeing and combat social isolation and loneliness. We support a range of people, and we are a fully funded and free service.

Move Mates currently has people on its waiting list for the Otley area and we are looking for new volunteers to support people to get out in the Otley area. This is a flexible role that fits around volunteer availability and the time commitment would be one to two hours per week.

If you are interested in applying to volunteer with us, please see details below:
Move Mates website: www.movemates.org.uk
Apply to volunteer: www.movemates.org.uk/volunteer-application
Call 0113 873 0327 Email: Leeds@movemate.org.uk

YOUR OTLEY IMAGES

This feature 'Your Images of Otley' is intended to present your favourite photographs and images of Otley, be it past or present, landmarks or views, nature or wildlife or those little known places. If you would like to contribute to the feature, please send your photographs and name for credit to otleymatters@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk and we will endeavour to feature as many as possible over the upcoming editions.

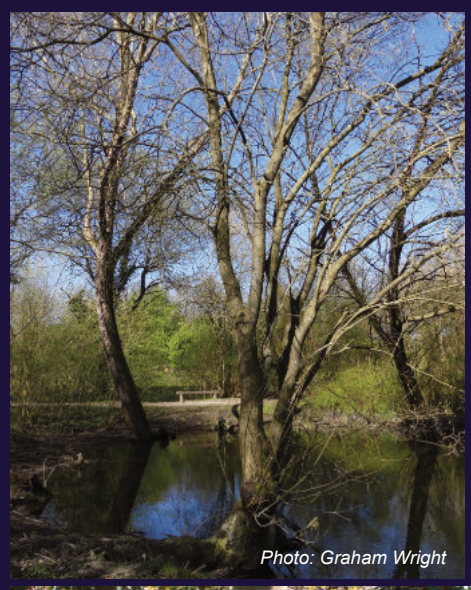


Photo: Graham Wright



Photo: James Ellis



Photo: William Hudders

OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL MESSAGE BOARD

Joint Otley Town Council & Community Police Surgeries

Otley Town Councillors and the Community Police hold a joint Surgery every second Wednesday in the month at 11.00am until noon at Otley Core.

If you have any queries or issues you would like to discuss in a friendly and relaxed environment, why not call in for a chat? No appointment necessary.



OTLEY FOOD BANK

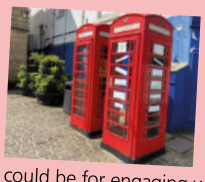
Otley Core is a donation point for the Otley Food Bank. Please help local people in crisis by donating items of food which have a long shelf life. A shopping list is available at the collection point. We thank you for your support.

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 on Fridays.

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 email admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Book the Box!



Otley Council takes bookings for the red telephone box in Market Place. Applications to use the space could be for engaging with residents, for promoting local community projects, for information giving or displaying items of interest and are welcomed from schools, local charities, or recognised community organisations.

Applications supporting the arts, such as local artists creating a pop-up art gallery, or commercial organisations will also be considered. To find out more and details of how to book, please visit www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

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



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-sized poster to admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk and we will display it 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



Sarah Hughes (Lib Dem)
sarah.hughes@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



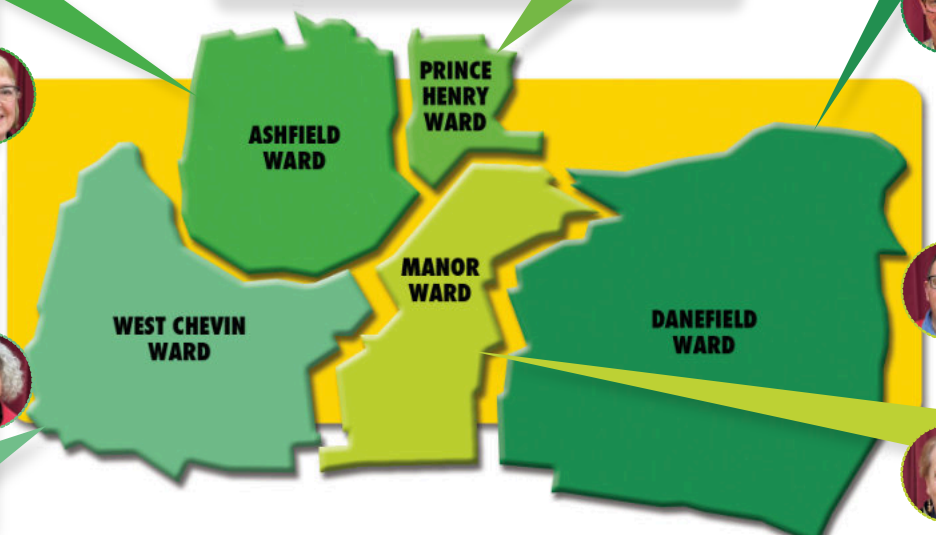
Mick Bradley (Green) t: 01943 467871
mick.bradley@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Sue Stepan (Green)
sue.stepan@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



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



WEST CHEVIN WARD



Richard Hughes (Lib Dem) t: 07885 219520
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

MANOR WARD



Nigel Gill (Lab)
nigel.gill@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: Cllr Nigel Gill, Cllr Mick Bradley, Cllr Richard Davies, Cllr Tom Featherstone, Cllr Linda Hoare, Cllr Colin Campbell, Cllr Ray Smith.
Front row left to right: Cllr Sue Stepan, Cllr Jo Allen, Cllr Richard Hughes (Chair of Council), Cllr Penny Robinson (Town Mayor),
Cllr Paul Carter (Deputy Town Mayor), Cllr Sylvia Thomson, Cllr Sarah Hughes. Apologies given: Cllr Gareth Dibble.

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 contact Katie White MP (Leeds North West), please email katie.white.mp@parliament.uk

OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL LITTER PICK DATES

Date	Ward	Meeting Point
Saturday 8 March	Manor	Maypole, Manchester Square
Wednesday 26 March	West Chevin	Grove Hill car park, Ilkley Road
Saturday 5 April	Ashfield	Outside shops, The Parade, Weston Drive
Wednesday 16 April	Gallows Hill	Gallows Hill car park
Saturday 3 May	Prince Henry	Cafe entrance, Wharfemeadows park
Wednesday 14 May	Danefield	Outside The Summercross, East Busk Lane

All meeting times are 10.00am with the session lasting until noon.



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 provides 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*



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS
March 2025 - May 2025

Audit **Human Resources**	**10 March**
Planning **Trade & Tourism**	**17 March**
Policy & Resources **Full Council**	**31 March**
Planning **Environment & Sustainability**	**28 April**
Annual Parish Meeting **(To be held at the United Reformed Church, Bridge Street)**	**12 May**

All Town Council meetings are held at the Otley Core Resource Centre, 11 Orchard Gate, Otley. All meetings usually commence at 7.00pm 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.

ARTICLES FOR NEXT EDITION

To have your organisation, group or event included in ***Otley Matters*** June 2025 edition please contact Jason Knowles for the editorial date in early April on 01943 466335 or email *otleymatters@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk*

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