Otley Matters

SUSTAINABILITY SPECIAL EDITION

September 2025
No 113

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OTLEY RESIDENTS LEAD ENERGY CHANGE



Loft insulation


Laying under floor insulation


The Ashfield Works Development



EV charging station in Westgate

An energy transition is under way. The government has set a timetable for the switch to using electricity to power our cars and heat our homes; renewable sources of electric power will improve our energy security, bring down costs in the long term and help us to avoid the worst of the effects of climate change. Otley residents are leading the way in this change, and Otley Town Council is beginning to lay the groundwork for supporting a manageable and affordable transition in Otley.

In this edition of Otley Matters, we highlight some of the brilliant work already taking place in Otley. Rod Holt, a winner of the Otley Sustainable Buildings Award, offers some advice, and we also write about the other winners, Andy and Rachael Teale, who have done a fantastic job of bringing a part of Otley's history – Dawson's Foundry building – back into use. Rachael explains, "Although we always had a view of creating a live–work building and community, stripping back this wonderful 1862 building and making it sustainable will give at least another 150 years of life." Other Otley projects and activities are showcased.

Commonly asked questions by residents are 'What can I affordably do to reduce my home energy consumption?' and 'How can I charge an electric car if I live in a terraced house?' Otley Town Council wants to help provide answers to these and other key questions – to provide the best information for residents and planners, and help to coordinate support for the town, as we move into a new lower-carbon future.

Our approach will focus on partnership: listening to local views through a Town Forum and Have Your Say exercises and brokering in support from local experts and outside agencies to advise residents and businesses about next steps and to help us to plan sensible, effective action together.

We need to do this. Two-thirds of Britons believe that human-induced climate change is real; nearly as many (62%) believe the scientists' account of the effects of climate change is accurate. In Otley, let's manage the energy transition well.

Sustainable Building Awards



Otley Town Council has launched a Sustainable Building Award to recognise and encourage excellence in sustainable construction and renovation within the Otley Parish Boundary. Open to individuals and businesses, eligible projects must have been completed within the last two years and are judged on carbon efficiency and sensitivity to the local environment and economy.

At the Council's Annual Meeting in May, Cllr Paul Carter, Otley Town Mayor, presented two awards. Rachael and Andy Teale were recognised for refurbishing properties at the former Ashfield Works site – a commercial project within the Conservation Area. Their commitment to bringing historic buildings back to life was remarkable, involving selling their house to fund the project and aiming for a standard of insulation, heating and finish to ensure the buildings are fit for purpose for many years to come.

Rachael and Andy explained: "We reused and repurposed all materials from the building – roof slates, stone and timber – to keep down cost and keep the character. Even the lampposts in the car park are repurposed cast-iron support columns. To future-proof the building, we made sure it achieved an energy performance rating (EPC) of A, achieved with the best insulation and triple glazing. We also installed solar panels and ground source heating." It wasn't surprising that the judges praised the development as "a good example of heritage-focused design."

The second award went to Rod Holt, who described his motivation for retrofitting his traditional Otley terraced home as seeing his dad living out his later years in a miserable, cold and damp house. Rod achieved this aim: his work was described by judges as "a strong example of what individual homeowners can do to retrofit a property of any age." Read further in Otley Matters for some of Rod's thoughts.

The awards will return in 2026.

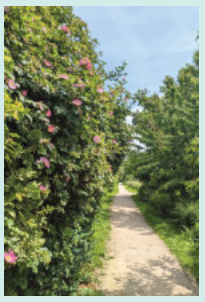


Town Council Successes



Two years ago, when this Council was elected, we said that we would preserve Otley's unique and wonderful character, use our position as the elected body for Otley to coordinate support for the environment and our residents and use our income wisely and efficiently and attract other funds wherever possible. We are doing this as we promised. This year, we again put the precept up only in line with inflation, typically by less than the cost of a cup of coffee per household. The precept has fallen by 20% in real terms since 2020.

Nevertheless, although expenditure is closely monitored, we play a significant role in the community and, using the money we have, we can do a surprising amount of good on behalf of the community. We keep our civic traditions alive, organise successful community events, support our town centre, bring in money from outside Otley for local improvements, help both local organisations and the funding of local infrastructure: this year we are particularly proud of the new visitor information totems, supporting playpark refurbishments and the resident groups who campaigned successfully for these, and of the significant improvements to Gallows Hill Nature Reserve.



If you want to read more about what the Council does, the Annual Parish Address sets this out. See this at www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk/news

This Edition of Otley Matters

Enjoy reading this special edition of Otley Matters and, if you want to get involved further, please email admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Otley 2030: Making Otley a Greener, Fairer Town

Otley 2030 has led and collaborated on many high-profile Otley projects, including the Fruit & Veg delivery scheme, solar panels on the library and local schools, the East of Otley development campaign and the community buyout of Weston Woods. In 2025, the charity celebrates six years of local climate action.

In May, their 'Walk to School Week' campaign saw 347 children from four Otley primary schools and their families walking, scooting or cycling to school. Highlights included mascot visits, road safety training, free bike MOTs, and eight second-hand bikes donated to children without one. Families collectively pledged to save 109 kg of CO_2 during just five days of school runs! Otley 2030, Otley Town Council and the schools involved all hope to make the week even bigger next year. Otley 2030's Community Larder, based in Weston, takes food which would otherwise be thrown away and makes it available to the community, and has saved 40 tonnes of food from landfill since opening in 2023.

The charity also focuses on nature, setting up the Otley Nature Network in partnership with Wildlife Friendly Otley and launching a local Nature Recovery Plan in 2022 – a coordinated vision to bring nature-rich habitats back to the town. Since then, four community orchards have been planted, the latest next to Weston Playpark, which, together with Weston Community Nature Garden, was created with funding from Leeds City Council's 'Community Climate Grant'.

Otley 2030 is supporting the development of Otley Common (formerly the Methodist church) and plans to open a Climate Action Hub there as well as continuing their collaborative project with the University of Leeds and local teenagers, 'Otley Youth Theatre'.

As a small charity, Otley 2030 is seeking long-term funding to continue with all their projects. There are lots of ways you can support. Sign up for a one-off or regular donation on the website: www.otley2030.com/donate

MAKE YOUR HOUSE CHEAPER TO HEAT



Our houses were built when fossil energy was cheap and thought to be harmless. Now it is expensive and known to be damaging. It is poor at keeping us warm (or cool), affordable or sustainable.

Amazing technologies in our cars, appliances, and communication and entertainment systems are nowhere to be seen in the piles of mud, blocks and stone most of us inhabit – they are long overdue for modernisation, to increase our comfort, and to reduce our bills (and CO2 emissions).

The process of energy-saving retrofit involves coordinated improvements and renovations throughout the property, carried out with care. A comprehensive package of measures should be planned, but it must also accommodate existing damage or defects, which often come to light during work. When funds are limited, a room-by-room approach may be appropriate, once the master plan is in place.

The skills needed to design and implement such improvements are in short supply in England, and untrained tradespeople can do more harm than good when energy efficiency is the goal. Ideally, therefore, householders should use an organisation which plans and coordinates all aspects of the job, from design and finance to construction and completion – the One-Stop Shop model. Otley 2030 is working with partner organisations such as retrofitworks.co.uk to make this available to residents. The video on their website provides a useful introduction to this approach.

If you would like to be one of the first to use this approach, contact Otley 2030 to find out more.

Article by Rod Holt: a Certified Passive House Tradesperson and winner of the Otley Town Council Sustainable Building Award 2025 for domestic buildings.

Are You Doing Better than Your EPC?

The Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of your house can be misleading – EPC ratings are often based on the property's age and type because many features could not be inspected by the assessor. It often makes assumptions about the occupants' approach to energy use and the types of equipment fitted.

Even if you don't have gas and electricity meter readings, you can often get an estimate of your home's annual offtake of gas and electricity from comparison sites such as "MoneySuperMarket" www.moneysupermarket.com/store/gas-and-electricity/enquiry/ where (for example) my home's annual electricity usage is said to be 1730 kWh/year, and annual gas usage 9467 kWh/year. Since my home's floor area is 92 m², it performed as if it had an EPC rating of C. The official EPC for my home agreed with a C rating as disclosed at www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate.

For more information, contact Eric Peterson, E.Peterson@Leeds.ac.uk, Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Leeds.



Pioneering Change: Inside Otley's First Eco Small Business Workshop

Otley is quietly becoming the epicentre of grassroots business sustainability, and at the heart of it all is **Eco-Boost Your Business**.

A six-month programme that started in May with a series of two-hour workshops created by two Otley-based business owners, Rachelle Atkin of The Yorkshire Marketing Company and Pippa Rose Ridley of Etempa Web Solutions, and co-funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Otley BID.

It aims to empower small business owners to be more sustainable, while helping cut costs, boost profits and lead meaningful change by reducing Otley's carbon footprint.

So far, attenders have included Sinclairs, Like Nana Did, Courtyard Planters, Sowdens Plumbers, Zeraschilli, Althams Travel, Safety Group UK, Woolpack Studios, Bondgate Bakery and WRM.

Eco-Boost is a gamified, results-driven programme which includes:

1. **Learning** – Bust eco-myths and understand your carbon footprint.
2. **Taking Action** – Create a tailored Sustainability Action Plan.
3. **Ongoing support** – Access a Sustainability Toolkit, Monthly Q&As and a Community Hub.
4. **Recognition** – Celebrate achievements through a fun Rewards Scheme and online promotion.
5. **Leaderboard** – Track participant achievements, cost savings and the carbon reduction of Otley as a whole.

A recent attendee, Jo of Like Nana Did, Otley's zero-waste and sustainability champion, said:
"It was great! The more businesses that subscribe to sustainable practices, the better for Otley … even as a sustainability-focused business, I learned a lot."

Come and join Otley's mission to establish more sustainable businesses: saving costs, collaborating and having fun along the way! See: www.eco-boost.co.uk.



Sustainability at Otley Parish Church

We're called to be good stewards of Creation, and we're exploring ways we can follow this calling more fully. Our website ww.otleyparishchurch.org/ contains articles encouraging Personal Steps to make our lives more sustainable.

We're progressing towards Carbon Net Zero by 2030, including a new, insulated roof for which we're fundraising. Online contributions can be made to Sort code 20-37-13 account number 10088811, reference ROOF FUND. Alternatively, cheque or cash donations are accepted in envelopes marked ROOF FUND. Donations under Gift Aid add 25% to the value.

We're also working on Churchyard Management to encourage biodiversity, in partnership with Leeds City Council and Wildlife Friendly Otley. Mowing is now limited to areas not planted with flowers and plants attractive to birds and insects. Cuttings from bushes and trees are collected in the north-west corner, creating wildlife habitats.

Otley Community Larder: Fighting Food Waste, Feeding the Community



Since being launched in October 2023, Otley Community Larder has saved more than 40 tonnes of food from landfill – equivalent to more than 95,238 meals! Each week, we share surplus food with up to 650 households who want to help reduce waste and keep good food in use.

We collect food from local stores and pay for around 1/3 of our stock from FareShare, ensuring a steady supply of rescued and surplus produce. We also supply local events and community groups with food.

The Larder is open to all – no referrals, no criteria – just good food saved from waste, available on a pay-as-you-feel basis. Opening hours: Tuesdays 2.30 –7.30pm and Saturdays 10.30am – 2.30pm.

Run by a part-time paid coordinator and 40+ volunteers, brightened by planters made by Otley Men's Shed filled with bee- and butterfly-friendly herbs and food plants from Courtyard Planters, Otley Community Larder is proud to be a thriving and growing project in Otley.

Get involved, volunteer, donate, or request food for your event: larder@otley2030.com



Our Plant Sale was a great success; the committee put on a great show to raise funds for our group. Members had been sowing and growing for months beforehand and were generous with their plant donations.

Plans are already afoot for our new season and Kathryn, our Syllabus Secretary, has assembled a tempting programme of speakers. We start the season in September with a return visit from nursery owner and plantsman, Andrew Ward. In October, we have Matthew Smith from Brighter Blooms in Preston and in November, Neil Barwise-Carr from Otley Garden Centre. Something for everyone!

If you would like to come and join us as a member, or as a guest for a single talk, just let us know and we'll reserve you a place.

We meet at Beech Hill Church on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May, at 7.30pm. Please contact Christine at wharfedalegardeners@gmail.com or for more details, visit: www.wharfedalegardeners.com

Chevin Orchard Project



Autumn is just around the corner, and it's scrumping time again. At the time of writing, it's difficult to gauge how good a harvest it will be, but I am forever hopeful that it will be a good year. So the annual squidging (aka juicing) dates have been drawn up, as follows.

Saturdays and Sundays: 30 & 31 August, 6 & 7 September, 20 & 21 September and 4 & 5 October.

Depending on demand, a further October date may be arranged. Remember, we can deal with a bucketful to a van load of apples. As in the past, we will operate a booking system to avoid additional chaos, details of which will be on our Facebook page/newsletter nearer the dates.

Also, in the pipeline there is a 150-metre double hedge to be planted towards the end of November, all being well, followed by a BBQ. Again, keep an eye on @otleychevinorchardproject and/or newsletters for details.

OTLEY GREEN FAIR 2025



Despite the cool and rainy weather, nearly 250 people came to the Green Fair at Otley Courthouse to learn more about what they can do to make their town and the environment more sustainable and nature-friendly. Networking and information sharing were two of the main activities. There were workshops for adults and children, and music from local musicians in the courtyard. Terry Ford, the Otley Bellman, helped to advertise the event and visited many stalls to chat with stallholders. The special vegetarian and vegan food in the café was very popular, as was the Raffle. Many thanks to the local businesses who donated prizes and vouchers. Many thanks also to all who helped to make this event so successful.

Otley in Bloom



The summer months have certainly kept us busy, with many jobs to do around the town. The expected weeding and some re-planting of barrier planters and wildlife beds around the town and in the park have delivered some fabulous displays of flora that we've all been able to enjoy.

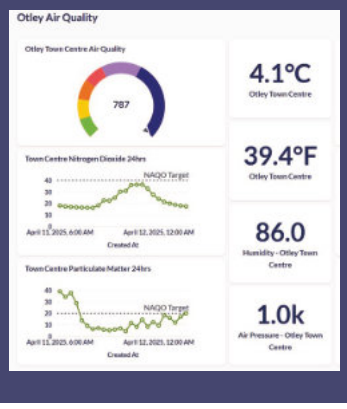
New on our list, though, was the planting of lots of the 'unloved' planters in the town centre. With support from local businesses and some kind residents to do the watering of these planters, we replanted ten of these with perennial flowering plants to spruce up the town. Additionally, we added the hanging baskets under the Buttercross when we discovered that Leeds City Council were not providing them this year.

Lots more to do as we move into autumn, so if you fancy joining us, contact us at: www.otleyinbloom.co.uk

Otley in Bloom

SPONSORED BY OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Otley Town Council Installs Environmental Sensors

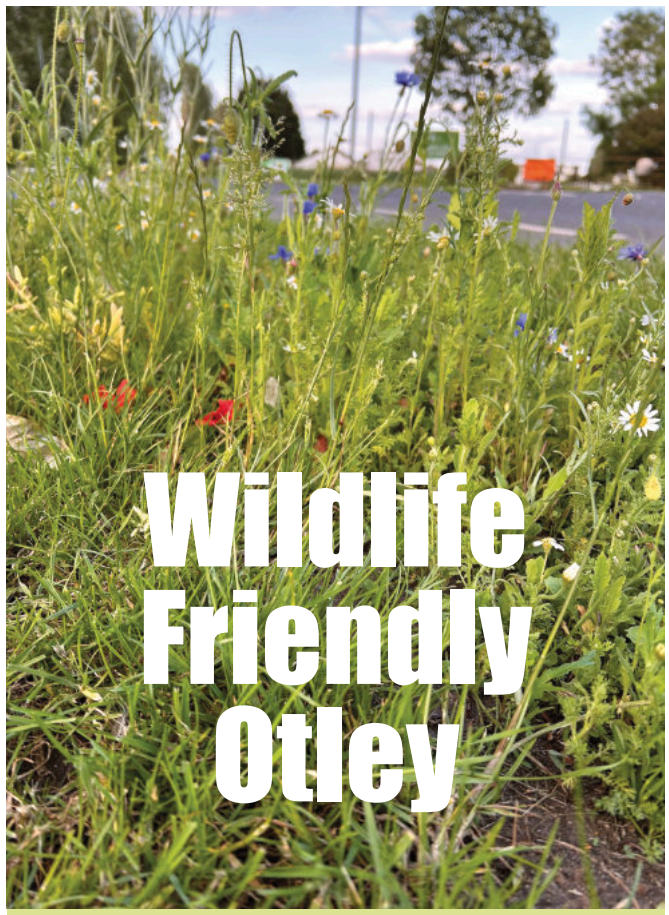


Otley Town Council has taken an important step toward understanding local air quality by installing two new environmental sensors in the town. This initiative aims to raise awareness of local air quality, support environmental action, and help the community better understand the impact of urban activity on the environment.

This new service is especially useful for residents with asthma, COPD, and other respiratory conditions, offering up-to-the-minute information on temperature, humidity, air quality index, NO_2, and PM2.5. Please note that values are 'indicative'.

The two sensors are located in the town centre and at Gallows Hill Nature Area. The locations were chosen to provide a useful comparison between the busier urban area and the more natural, open space.

Just visit www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk/environmental-sensor-data/ to check live data.



Bringing Nature Back to Otley

Local groups, residents, and the Town Council are coming together to restore the town's natural spaces – not just for us, but for the wildlife that calls Otley home. Otley's Nature Recovery Plan is more than a document; it's a shared commitment to reversing biodiversity loss and building a greener, more climate-resilient future.

You might have noticed more wildflowers blooming in parks and along paths, or heard about the new community orchards being planted. These aren't just pretty additions – they're lifelines for pollinators, birds, and small mammals. By reducing mowing and avoiding pesticides, we're letting nature breathe again.

The orchards are especially exciting. They reconnect us with Otley's fruit-growing heritage, offer free food, and create habitats that support biodiversity. These habitats also act as natural carbon sinks, supporting climate resilience through improved soil health and water retention.

Groups like Wildlife Friendly Otley, Otley 2030, and the Otley Nature Network are leading the way, but they're not doing it alone. Residents are joining in by planting wildlife-friendly gardens, volunteering in habitat restoration, and sharing ideas.

Together, we're making Otley a place where nature can thrive again. And in doing so, we're helping to tackle climate change, one green space at a time.

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY OTLEY

UPCOMING EVENTS

September	
13	**Otley Heritage Open Days**
14	**Otley Farmers' Market**
19-21	**Otley Folk Festival**
20	**Otley Arts Kollectiv' Showcase**
21	**Otley Town Crier Competition**
28	**Otley Farmers' Market**
28	**Otley Designer Craft Fair**
October	
12	**Otley Farmers' Market**
26	**Otley Designer Craft Fair**
26	**Otley Farmers' Market**
November	
9	**Remembrance Sunday Parade**
9	**Otley Farmers' Market**
9-15	**Otley Science Festival**
14-15	**Otley Beer Festival**
24	**Otley Christmas Lights Switch On**
30	**Otley Farmers' Market**
30	**Otley Designer Craft Fair**
December	
7	**Victorian Fayre**
10-13	**Otley Christmas Tree Festival**
21	**Otley Farmers' Market**
26	**Chevin Chase**

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



OTLEY SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Sunday 9 to Saturday 15 November

This year's Festival starts with a great family show with the Science Viking on Sunday 9 November at the Courthouse. The show is presented by Terry Harvey-Chadwick as his Viking alter-ego 'Bjarni Thorvaldrson'.

Our school shows will be running on the mornings of Tuesday 11 (Surprising Science for Key Stage 1) and Wednesday 12 (Superhero Science for Key Stage 2), and both will be presented by Matt Pritchard.

On the evening of Tuesday 11, we will hold our ever-popular Science Café, where three speakers give a short talk on three wildly differing scientific themes and the audience gets a chance to ask questions at the end of each talk.

Our evening speakers at this year's Festival will include Mike Berners-Lee (brother of Tim Berners-Lee and a leading expert on carbon footprints and greenhouse gases) on Friday 14 and Marcus Du Sautoy (mathematician and Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford) on Saturday 15. Before that, we will have an evening session on Thursday 13, in the company of our friends at Chez Vin, looking into the Science of Wine, and, in contrast, our Friday afternoon session will be a talk on the infected blood scandal.

There will be a showing of the film Rule Breakers on Wednesday 12, and don't forget the wonderful free Family Science Fair at Otley Courthouse on Saturday 15!

Many thanks to Otley Town Partnership, Wharfedale Naturalists, the Institute of Physics and Leeds City Council for their continued generous support for this Festival.



Paul Buckley

Otley Camera Club Kicks Off New Season

Otley Camera Club is back for the 2025/2026 season, and we're excited to welcome new faces! Whether you're just starting with photography or you've been at it for years, there's a place for you here.

We've got a packed and varied programme lined up, with seven fantastic guest speakers covering everything from landscapes and macro to portraits. Expect amazing images, great stories, and plenty of tips and tricks.

Our regular competition nights are a great chance to show your work and get helpful feedback from guest judges – it's a brilliant way to learn and build your confidence. We also run hands-on tutorials, practical workshops, and relaxed sharing evenings, all led by experienced club members.

We meet every Thursday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Alongside our weekly get-togethers, we head out to local events and photo-friendly locations – perfect for putting your skills into practice. We've recently been out photographing the Otley Carnival, Otley Cycle Races, and even Leeds Warriors ice hockey games! If you're into photography (or think you might be!), why not pop in one evening or drop us a message to find out more?

Get in touch: otleycameraclubinfo@gmail.com

OTLEY HANDBELLS

Would you like a new hobby? We are looking for people to join us in September/October. This is a wonderful hobby, as it is a pleasure to make lovely music within a team.

We play various music: classical, folk, jazz, country, as well as hymns we all know and love. We have been ringing in Otley since 1989 and have played in lots of different venues (Harewood House Christmas Market, an Emmerdale Wedding and even in Adelaide, Australia).

Knowledge of music is not necessary, just a love of music and being part of a team. If you would like to come and see what we do or have a go, please call 07494 731932 for more information.

OTLEY MEN'S FORUM RECONVENES

Once again, there is the opportunity to be educated and entertained at the Otley Men's Forum when it commences its new season on Thursday 4 September. New members are very welcome.

The Otley and District Men's Forum has been meeting for over 50 years, every other Thursday morning, except over the Summer, to listen to a talk or other presentation on many varied subjects and then have a chat over a coffee and biscuit. Topics for the last year have included the intriguing 'The Politics of Teaching Maths' and the lesser-known part of the Brontë story of how the parents met.

At the first meeting of the new season, the talk is entitled 'Saudi Arabia – Land of Sand and Oil'. There will then be meetings at fortnightly intervals with the topics until Christmas being Charting the 1980s, Famous Occupants of Beckett Street Cemetery, The Workhouse, Capability Brown at Temple Newsam, Living and Working in Nigeria, The Lake District and Two Hundred Years of the Post Box.

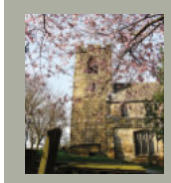
If you would like to be entertained and educated by our eclectic mix of presentations for an hour and then have a cuppa and chat, just turn up at our venue, Beech Hill Church, Beech Hill. Doors open about 9.45am for a 10.00am start. Cost is £4 per session, including coffee and biscuits. For further details, please see our website otleymensforum.com

Otley Architecture Through the Ages

Otley Open Heritage Days: Learn More About Your Town for Free!

On Saturday 13 September, and as part of the national Heritage Open Day annual event, you can visit three sites across the town and learn about the buildings, their history and who designed them. The sites are Otley Parish Church, Otley Bridge Church, and Otley Courthouse, including an Otley Museum presentation. Each venue has a different emphasis according to the age and type of building, and all are well worth a visit. Refreshments and toilets are available at all venues.

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

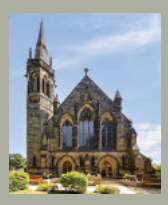


Otley Parish Church has parts dating from the 11th century and is the oldest building in the town. In particular, there is a display of our Anglian cross pieces, which show that Christian worship has taken place here for at least 1,300 years. These include the Evangelist's Cross, dating from the 8th/9th century – described as "one of the finest monuments surviving from pre-Viking Northumbria" – and the Dragon Cross, dating from the early 9th century. The church architecture reflects development from its Norman foundation, through the Medieval enlargement and the Victorian embellishment.

At 11.00am and repeated at 2.00pm, there will be 'The Story of Otley Parish Church in 25 Objects – a guided tour and talk.' Tower visits are available at certain times during the day. These will include a demonstration of bell ringing and an opportunity to climb higher and see the bells, but not to the top, for safety reasons.
The impressive, Grade II-listed, Navvies' Memorial in the churchyard will also be open for visits. This is a memorial to those who died during the construction of the Bramhope Tunnel, and a display inside the church tells more of the story.

OTLEY BRIDGE CHURCH

Sat 13 Sept 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sun 14 Sept 12.00 pm - 4.00pm



The Bridge Church will be reflecting on this year's theme of 'Architecture'. Our Grade II Listed building, including the hall and rooms to the rear, is one of the most significant in the town and much admired both in Otley and beyond. There will be displays about the building through the years, including historic photographs, in addition to examining some of the architectural features. The display will also reflect the previous Salem Congregational Chapel – a very different building – which the present place of worship replaced.

OTLEY MUSEUM AT OTLEY COURTHOUSE



In line with the theme of Architecture, Otley Museum will be presenting an exhibition entitled "Foundations and Facades" (10.00am until 4.00pm). This will highlight the work of Alfred Marshall, a prolific and successful Architect who designed houses, chapels, schools and municipal buildings. There will be a slideshow to exhibit some of his work. Also on display will be other architectural places of interest such as the Bridge, the Parish Church, the Old Hall in Kirkgate, and Boroughgate. Some of the 7,500 building plans that we hold and the Building Register, which lists all the properties in Otley where planning was applied for from the 1870s through to the mid-1900s, will be on display. Who knows? Your house could be in the Register.

OTLEY COURTHOUSE

Capturing Otley's Heritage – Two Pen & Ink Drawing Workshops, with Emma-Jayne Emmott. Workshop 1: 11.00am - 12.45pm Workshop 2: 1.15pm - 3.00pm

An art workshop celebrating the town's rich architectural heritage through drawing. Using pen and ink, participants will create line drawings of Otley's historic buildings, exploring their character and history. Each individual piece will come together to form a collaborative standing artwork of the town. Suitable for age seven and above. Booking required.



Hourly guided tours of this Victorian building, former courthouse, cell block and police station. Booking required.

Building skills – There will be a building activity in the Courthouse foyer throughout the day, using traditional wooden blocks and with design suggestions created by the Wharfedale Men's Shed. Suitable for all ages. No booking required.

Otley Players present two performances during the afternoon in the courtyard, celebrating Otley's rich past in an entertaining way. All welcome. No booking required. For times, please see website: www.otleycourthouse.org.uk

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, pictured here, 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. Live music, talks, walks and afternoon tea.

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, magazine subscription included.

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

25/26 NAT2N FIXTURES

7 AUGUST - LEEDS TYKES (FRIENDLY) (A) 6.30PM KO
16 AUGUST - YORK (FRIENDLY) (H) 2PM KO
22 AUGUST - HUDDERSFIELD (FRIENDLY) (A) 7PM KO
6 SEPTEMBER - SHEFFIELD (A)
13 SEPTEMBER - SCUNTHORPE (H)
20 SEPTEMBER - TYNEDALE (A)
27 SEPTEMBER - WHARFEDALE (H)
4 OCTOBER - DARLINGTON MP (A)
11 OCTOBER - BILLINGHAM (A)
18OCTOBER - SHEFFIELD TIGERS (H)
25 OCTOBER - ROSSENDALE (A)
8 NOVEMBER - HULL IONIANS (H)
15 NOVEMBER - PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS (A)
22 NOVEMBER - FYLDE (H)
6 DECEMBER - HULL (A)
13 DECEMBER - MACCLESFIELD (H)
20 DECEMBER - SCUNTHORPE (A)

MATCHES PLAYED BETWEEN 6TH SEPTEMBER AND 28TH FEBRUARY KICK OFF AT 2PM

OTLEY RUGBY CLUB

OTLEY R.U.F.C.



Otley Beer Festival

The annual Otley Beer Festival returns on the weekend of 14 & 15 November. Unfortunately, Otley Rugby Club is unavailable, so we are in discussion with another venue in Otley. We will announce the location as soon as we can and will update our website www.otleybeerfestival.co.uk when we have news. There will be 40 cask beers, all from Yorkshire, up to 8 keg beers, local ciders and gin. As a reminder, please see the photograph showing the presentation made in February to representatives of last year's charities, Zarach and Purple Patch and the winner of the Beer of the Festival. As ever, we will be supporting local charities and look forward to a great event.



Otley Christmas Lights

The traditional countdown to Christmas will commence with the Christmas Lights switch-on to be held in Otley Market Place on Monday 24 November. The event will start at 5.30pm with a range of musical entertainment and attractions in the square. The Town Mayor will switch on the Christmas lights at 7.00pm followed by a short firework display.

OTLEY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025



The Christmas Tree Festival in the Parish Church is now firmly fixed as an annual event in the Otley calendar. Last year's festival saw visitors coming in large numbers from far and wide. The festival gave local charities and organisations the opportunity to advertise the work that they do, and it was particularly pleasing that the groups who dressed the trees made over £4,000, which was much-needed income in a period when times are hard for the charity sector.

This year the festival will take place from 10–13 December. The festival will again be organised by a team from Otley Parish Church, but the team acknowledges that the festival couldn't happen without all the efforts of the people from the charities who help set up, steward and clean up at the end of the festival.

The festival has always been a favourite with Otley people and visitors to the town and hopefully, it will again benefit the town and its businesses in what are still difficult times. The festival is also an opportunity for local musicians to show off their talents! There were some delightful performances from schools, other choirs and music groups in previous years.

If you want to know more about how to have a tree for your charity or if you lead a music group that would be interested in performing at the festival, please contact allanboddy@gmail.com.

We will be contacting charities in early October that have had a tree in the past or who have let us know they want a tree this year.



Art Exhibition to Please All

There is something to interest everyone at the Otley Courthouse September Art Exhibition. Watercolours and Oil paintings by local artists Michele Prior and Denise Conway depict Children at Play, Otley Town Scenes, Vintage Cars, Seaside Delights and more.

Many are for sale at reasonable prices. Why not enjoy the display while visiting the café for a cuppa? Exhibition runs 1 September to 4 October.



OTLEY BID SUMMER UPDATE

Residents and visitors alike enjoyed a series of fabulous 'free' music and family-friendly events aimed at increasing footfall in Otley to support our local businesses – all funded by Otley BID. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our independent businesses – your participation has transformed these occasions into the fun annual traditions they have become.

May: The second year of the Otley Fan Park for the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon, held in the Market Place alongside the Farmers Market. Thank you to the team from Your Harrogate Radio for bringing the music, the commentary and helping us track our friends and family who were running.

July: Music in the Market Place – an eight-week programme of local buskers from around the area. Bringing us an array of sounds from prog rock to jazz, folk to the blues. We hope it brought a relaxing summer vibe to your Saturday shopping experience.

August: Our popular annual Kids Funzone returned with all your favourites – the climbing wall, crazy golf, dancing with fun characters, games, story time and crafting – there was something for everyone.

If you have any ideas of events you'd like to see next year, drop us an email at info@otleybid.co.uk – we'd love to hear from you.



OTLEY SPACE

Otley Space recently worked collaboratively with Hellohiphop and Hyrograff to deliver Soul System, a youth project at Otley Social Club.

Financed by the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Otley Town Council, and the Houldsworth family, the project, aimed at teenagers, provided an opportunity for young people to learn all the creative elements of HipHop Culture. This included breakin', rap, beatboxing, deejaying and graffiti. The project explored young people's creativity as they wrote poetry to use in rap and contributed to the design of a large mural, spray-painted onto the side wall at Otley Social Club.

In addition to learning new skills, young people have learned about the etiquette surrounding the arts, such as respect and consideration for their community, they have increased in confidence and had great fun in the process.

The artists can be viewed on Instagram @hellohiphop and @hyrograff, and contact Otley Space via email at otleyspace@gmail.com.

Otley Cycle Club Children's Coaching



Once again, Otley Cycle Club's children's coaching took place in June and July at Wharfemeadows Park.

The primary-aged children enjoyed six weeks of fun on a Friday evening. They learnt new cycling skills and improved confidence when riding a bike in a safe environment, under the watchful eyes of the Otley Cycle Club coaches, who are British Cycling registered.

Club coach Carol Armitstead said: "It has been another fantastic year. We have had fine weather, and the children have had a great time. It's lovely when we all get together at the end of each week to celebrate a 'Rider of the Week' award for each age group. The final week was Fun Race Night, which was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants, with the enthusiastic support of their parents."

Details of the coaching for June/July 2026 will be available next spring.



Senior Choir Tours Otley

The Prince Henry's Grammar School Senior Choir visited the Bridge Church Food and Friends Club and the Wharfeside Care Home Dementia Ward, performing a programme of work spanning several hundred years of church music. The choir, which had also just returned from a short tour of Spain, representing Otley at performances in the cathedrals in Girona and Montserrat and Calella Church, was very well received by the audiences. Student soloists also performed alongside the choir.

Representatives of Otley Bridge Church said: "We heard the Choir at the Parish Church Christmas Concert and thought they were very good, so asked them to come along to Food and Friends. We were amazed by the quality of the performances today. That was incredible."

Head of Performing Arts, Peter Condry, said: "It is great for our students to have the opportunity to perform in big venues abroad, but performing in our local community is really special."

Wharfedale Male Voice Choir

It seems incredible that we have already begun our autumn term of rehearsals. After enjoying a summer recess, we have begun work on adding some new material to our repertoire. We are looking forward to a busy season with several engagements to sing in various venues, some of which we have not visited before. September also indicates that the festive season is not too far away, so some Christmas music will also be introduced to our rehearsals.

Our membership continues to grow, but we always welcome new members. The ability to read music, although useful, is not essential, as we are schooled in learning our harmonies by our superb Music Director, Paul Hurst. We rehearse on Monday afternoons, and any gentlemen who would like to sing with our friendly group should contact Secretary Peter Roberts on 01943 463456

Buttercross Belles Morris Dancing



Following an exciting year of Morris Dancing around Yorkshire, The Buttercross Belles are offering a series of free 'taster' classes for beginners throughout September 2025. It's a lot of fun and excellent exercise. You will learn some easy traditional dance steps and at least one communal dance. The Belles will also demonstrate further dances for you to get a full flavour of what we do.

Join us at the Church Hall (SS John Fisher & Thomas More), Bradford Road, Burley, LS29 7PX, Thursday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm. Taster Classes throughout September. If you love it, take advantage of free membership for the rest of your first term.

Just wear comfy clothes and flat shoes, and bring plenty of water. We provide everything else. Male and female musicians are also welcome to join our band.

For more information, search: The Buttercross Belles – Taster Classes for Beginners.



If your answer to these questions is yes, then Otley Choral Society is holding two open rehearsal evenings at Prince Henry's Grammar School on Tuesday 2 and Tuesday 9 September. All singers will be welcomed from 6.45pm, ready to start rehearsing between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

Even more exciting, the choir's first concert in November will be Carl Orff's incredible 'Carmina Burana', which will be a good sing for everyone! Music will be provided, and members do not have to be able to read music, but it does help.

In December, the choir will be performing Handel's 'Messiah' for their bi-annual concert at Otley Parish Church – a very special evening for the whole Otley Community!

Please contact secretary.otleycs@gmail.com should you have any queries or need any further encouragement to come along in September!

WHAT'S ON AT OTLEY COURTHOUSE?

Friday 19 September: **Crumbs** *(Tickets: £15)*

This one-woman show follows a disgraced TV baking star as she tries to rebuild her career in the chaotic world of social media influencers.

Saturday 20 September: **Otley Arts Kollektiv' Showcase** *(Tickets: Free with bookable workshops)* A lively celebration of local art, music and crafts, with over 40 artists and makers.

Sunday 21 September: **Chris Difford: Not Only…But Also** *(Tickets: £27)*

Chris Difford blends songs, stories and humour from his Squeeze days to now.


Chris Difford

Friday 3 October: **Robin Ince: The Universe And The Diodiverse** *(Tickets: £17)*

Robin Ince combines poetry, stories, jokes and music in a personal, funny journey through space, minds and humanity.

Saturday 18 October: **Darkness & Light: Ghost Stories** *(Tickets: £14)*

A solo storyteller presents two chilling ghost tales: a haunted village's dark past and a cursed antique doll.

Sunday 19 October: **John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett** *(Tickets: £21)*

John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett, who gained fame in the 1970's punk scene with 'Cor Baby That's Really Free', are returning to the Courthouse for their new tour.

Friday 28 November: **Attention All Shipping** *(Tickets: £20)*

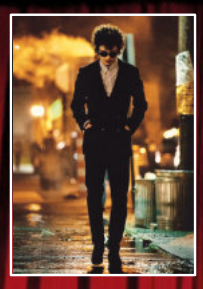
Bestselling author Charlie Connelly brings the shipping forecast to life in a funny, insightful show exploring its history, curious phrases and cultural impact.

To book tickets, visit www.otleycourthouse.org.uk, or call our box office on 01943 467466.

FILMS FOR AUTUMN AT OTLEY COURTHOUSE

The summer is over (almost), leaves are ready to fall (soon) and a huge range of films is ready for screening at Otley Courthouse.

Otley Film Society starts its 2025-26 season of 18 films on Thursday 4 September at 7.45pm.



Guest tickets are £5.00 and can be purchased on the night of the film. NB: these tickets are cash only.

4 Sept: **A Complete Unknown** US - music, biopic
18 Sept: **I'm Still Here** Brazil - political drama
2 Oct: **Santosh** India - crime drama
16 Oct: **Memoires of a Snail** Australia - animation drama
6 Nov: **Smoke Signals** France - political thriller
20 Nov: **My Favourite Cake** Iran - rom-com, drama

The Courthouse's Movie Matinees continue on Thursdays at 2.00pm. Tickets are bookable on the Courthouse website or on the door.

11 Sept: **Conclave** UK/US -conspiracy, drama, thriller
25 Sept: **Mr Burton** UK - biog, drama
9 Oct: **The Penguin Lessons** UK/US - drama
23 Oct: **A Real Pain** US - comedy, drama
6 Nov: **Ballad of Wallis Island** UK - rom-com, drama
27 Nov: **The Outrun** UK - psychological drama

Other films (see Courthouse website for more details and more films)

12 Sept: **Girl with a Pearl Earring** (Exhibition on screen)
25 Sept: **Inter Alia** (National Theatre Live)
9 Oct: **Bringing Yorkshire to the World with Screen Yorkshire**
27 Nov: **Marwan - Tomorrow's Freedom**



WOOLPACK MUSIC STUDIOS

From 6 October, Woolpack Music Studios on Bondgate will be starting their latest programme of weekly community music groups and Saturday courses.

On Saturdays, from 10.00am there is the opportunity to learn either song writing or the ukulele, in small group tuition. No experience is needed for the songwriting sessions, which run from 10.30am - 12.30pm. On the ukulele there is the choice of 'Beginners Plus'(10.00am-11.00am) which is suitable for learners who know the basic chords and want to take it further, or 'Improvers' (11.30am - 12.30pm) which is suitable for players who want some extra challenges, such as more complex chords, tablature or finger-picking.

Community music groups are the Otley Ukulele Orchestra (Monday 7.30pm), The Rock Orchestra (Tuesday 7.45pm), and the Woolpack Studios Community Choir (Thursday 7.30pm). New members are always welcome at our community groups – please get in touch if you'd like to try out any of our groups (The Rock Orchestra is the only group that has only limited availability, but all others are open to anyone).

Woolpack Studios are also available for:

BAND REHEARSAL SPACE: Two fully equipped rehearsal rooms are available to hire from as little as £13.50 per hour.

INSTRUMENTAL AND PRODUCTION TUITION: 1–1 tuition is available for guitar, ukulele, clarinet, saxophone, bass guitar and music production.

MUSIC PRODUCTION: Recording and production services are available in a soundproof and acoustically treated studio – also suitable for voiceovers, podcasts, meditation/therapeutic recordings, audiobooks and so on.

Please contact richard@woolpackstudios.co.uk for more information, or see www.woolpackstudios.co.uk

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DIRECT PAYMENTS

Are you considering care options for yourself or a loved one? If you have had a care needs assessment and are eligible for social care support, you may be able to use a direct payment to arrange and pay for your own care. Find out more, watch a video produced by Leeds City Council: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET1XxNfrMUw



Otley Maker Space

At Otley Maker Space, 'repair, don't replace' is our motto, so we continue to develop the workshops by investing in new and improved equipment, including better woodworking tools, top-quality sewing machines and 3D printers. Our recent purchase of a high-quality scroll saw allows production of detailed and complex shapes from wood up to 40mm thick, and we recently took delivery of a new 3D printer to replace one of our original very well-used machines. Our equipment is all well-maintained for the benefit of all users. A recent reorganisation has provided a vastly improved electronics capability, and this has proved to be very useful on our Repair Café open days. The equipment we have allows us to repair a wide range of items, from putting in zips to fixing radios and vacuum cleaners, tables and toasters.



Inspiring Young Minds at The Whartons Primary School

In June, pupils at The Whartons Primary School were treated to an exciting and educational visit from Balfour Beatty, the leading international infrastructure group currently working on Otley Bridge. Engineers and specialists from Balfour Beatty spent the day with children, introducing them to the many different careers within the construction industry. From building and engineering to designing and accounting, pupils learned how a wide variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills come together to deliver major projects like the Otley Bridge repair. The visit began with an engaging presentation where the team shared insights into their day-to-day roles and explained how the knowledge and skills the children are developing in school link directly to real-life jobs. Teachers noted how excited the children were to discover the connections between their lessons in design technology, maths and science, and the work done by industry professionals.

Later, the Balfour Beatty team gave an update on progress at Otley Bridge. Pupils saw photos and plans highlighting each stage of the project from early structural assessments to the repairs already completed, and learned about the next steps required to restore the footbridge safely. The highlight of the day was a hands-on construction challenge where children worked in teams to test their new knowledge. With great enthusiasm and creativity, pupils designed and built their own model structures, demonstrating excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills.

OTLEY CARNIVAL 2025



The 43rd Otley Carnival took place on Saturday 21 June, attracting thousands of visitors to the town. Unlike last year, the event enjoyed warm weather. The parade was led by the Bellman and the Town Mayor, featuring participants from various schools, including Ashfield, Askwith, St. Joseph's, Pool, Westgate, The Whartons (overall parade winners), All Saints, and Prince Henry's Grammar School.

The organisations that took part in the parade included Otley Brass Band, Otley Carnival Stars, Footloose Dance, Otley Ukulele Band, Otley Town Girls Football Team, Otley AIM, West Yorkshire Fire Brigade and Coopers Transport, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary. Entertainment was provided by Otley Karate Club, Footloose Dance, Bonds Academy, and Inspirations Dance. Musical performances included Steel Concordia and Otley Brass Band, with football activities hosted by Weston Lane Juniors. Special thanks goes out to our amazing Carnival Stars.

If anyone is interested in getting involved for next year's event, email info@otleycarnival.co.uk

OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY FUND

WHARFEDALE TALKING NEWS



We don't just read the local news for our listeners, we add a weekly selection of radio programmes, audio-described television programmes and some items of national interest via Soundings from the Talking News Federation. We also produce a monthly magazine with selections from The Dalesman and other magazines that we think will interest our listeners. If you would like to hear a particular magazine, get in touch and we'll try to arrange to read it. We also read information from Otley Action for Older People and, of course, all of Otley Matters.

Would you or someone you know benefit from listening to our audio version of the news? If so, please get in touch.

Potential volunteers who have IT or organisational skills would be most welcome to join our production teams, to help us create our 'paper'. You can contact us via our website www.wharfedaletalkingnews.org.uk

TOWN MAYOR'S NEWS



It is an honour to be elected as the 52nd Mayor of Otley and represent the town as we approach and start thinking about how we celebrate the 800th anniversary of two critical events in our history, namely the granting of our Market Charter in 1227 and the construction of the historic bridge over the River Wharfe in 1228.

As Mayor, one is asked to nominate the charities one would particularly like to support, and in the year that marks the 80th anniversaries of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) and VJ Day (Victory Over Japan Day) it seems appropriate to recognise the work of the Royal British Legion locally and to thank all members of the Armed Forces past and present for their service.

Finally, may I also offer a great big vote of thanks to all the many hundreds of volunteers who run local charities, clubs, societies, churches and business organisations, put on local events or raise money for good causes: life in Otley simply wouldn't be the same without you! ***Councillor Paul Carter, Otley Town Mayor.***

NEW HONORARY CITIZENS

Town Mayor Paul Carter recently presented Honorary Citizen status to five individuals who have each made numerous contributions to Otley over many years. The award places them among a respected group of Otley residents recognised for exceptional service to the community. Andrew Howard, David Robson, Brian King and Hazel Costello are shown receiving their award. Helen Wilkinson received her award at a later date.





Otley Walking Festival 2025

It's been wonderful to welcome people to the Otley Walking Festival again, showcasing our lovely market town and the wonderful variety of Wharfedale countryside we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep. With 57 walks and events, there really has been something for everyone. Favourites like the Six Dales Trail, Allotments Walk, Wayzgoose Weave and the Five Pubs Walk. New themed walks – Chevin Meanderings, Children of the Mill, Poetry in the Wetlands, Snickets Walk, Dales Delights, Leeds Green Gateways and more – too many to mention!

Thanks to the great team of volunteer walk leaders who give their time and expertise for the Festival, our financial sponsors (Aura Jewellery, Backcountry UK, Bondgate Bakery, Christopher Little & Co), and local businesses who donated raffle prizes.

Diary Date Otley Walking Festival: 27 June – 7 July 2026 otleywalkingfestival.co.uk
If you want to get involved, contact us at otleywalkingfestival@mail.com

Otley Action for Older People needs you!



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

Do you have a few spare hours a week, and would you like to give back to the older people in our community and make a difference to their lives?

Otley Action is always recruiting volunteers, but we need volunteers 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 the MiDAS driving course, which consists of an online theory assessment and then a practical, in-person assessment. New drivers then 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.

Otley Action for Older People



Royal Wharfedale Lodge

Freemasons of Otley were asked for help with buying a state-of-the-art lawnmower for Almscliffe Bowling Club. Royal Wharfedale Lodge stepped in and secured a grant from our Provincial Office so that the Club was able to buy the lawnmower shown in the photograph. Apart from just mowing the bowling green, it has six other separate rollers to do all manner of things to keep the green in tip-top condition for years to come.

Trevor Backhouse, who is the Charity Steward of Royal Wharfedale Lodge, is in the picture with Nigel Hall, who approached Trevor to ask for financial support, along with other members of the Bowling Club. Trevor says that as Masons, we are always happy to help.

More details about Freemasonry can be found at www.royalwharfedalelodge.co.uk or email secroyalwharfedale1108@gmail.com

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 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 requests are welcomed from schools, local charities, or recognised community groups.



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

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.

Joint Otley Town Council & Community Police Surgeries

Otley Town Councillors and Community Police hold a joint Surgery every month from 11.00am until noon at Otley Core. These take place on either Wednesday or Saturday. The dates and times are: Saturday 13 September, Wednesday 8 October, Saturday 8 November and Wednesday 10 December.

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



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.

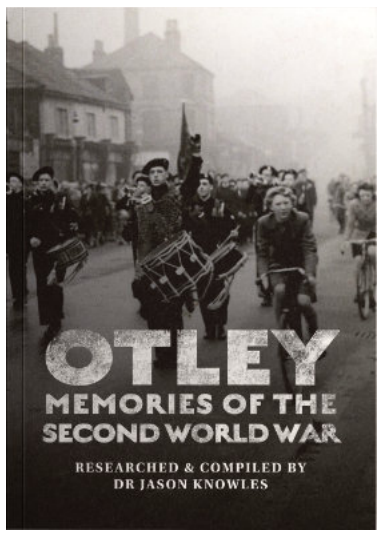
There is also a larger window space available to advertise your activities and events – please contact a member of the Core Liaison team on 01943 466335 for more details and make a booking.

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



Memories of the Second World War



To mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan Day, an updated second edition of the book *Otley – Memories of the Second World War*, written by Dr Jason Knowles, has been published by Otley Town Council. The book was designed by The Yorkshire Wordwright with production by Print Crew, both Otley-based.

With new chapters, the book features a wide selection of photographs and is a story of individuals, families and the people of Otley in wartime and draws on memories of Otley residents, personal stories, news reports and archive material.

A limited stock of this new book is currently available from Otley Core, priced £15. You can order your copy by emailing admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk or by telephone 01943 466335.

The book would make an ideal gift for anyone with an association with Otley and an interest in the history of the town.

OTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

OUR OTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As reported in the previous edition of Otley Matters, the town council has now commenced a review of the Otley Neighbourhood Plan. We asked for anybody interested in getting practically involved in the review to come forward, and we are pleased to say that a number of you did just that.

The next step in the process will be a launch meeting to be held at Otley Core on Thursday 9 October, 7.00 – 8.30pm. The evening will comprise a short introduction, followed by workshop groups (on green space, community facilities and other topics) with a short feedback session to conclude. At the end, we will be asking people to express interest in joining a steering group and/or various task groups to come on stream later in the process.

Invitations are being sent out to community groups as well as to those people who have registered an interest. Anyone keen to be involved can contact us via email: admin@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk or please telephone 01943 466335, or in person at our offices.

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



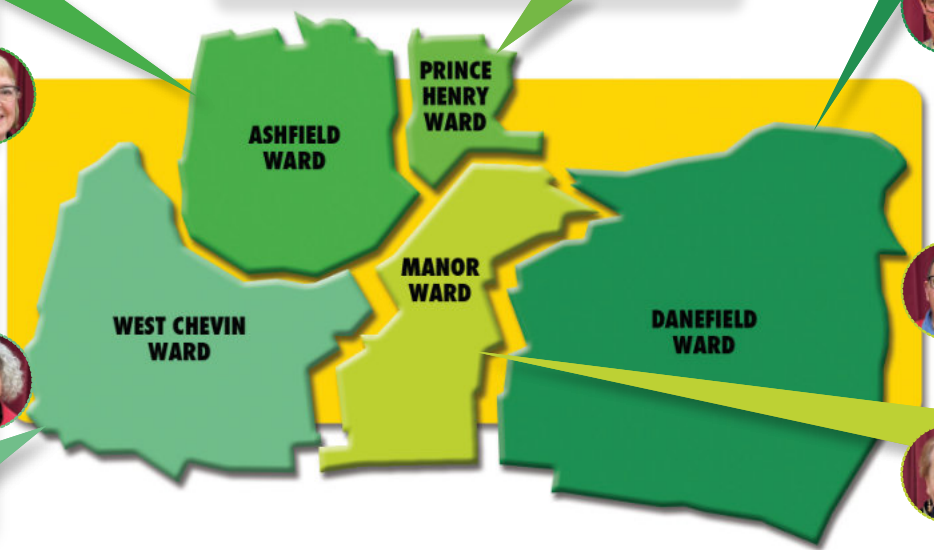
Mick Bradley (Green) t: 01943 467871
mick.bradley@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk



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

All councillors work in a voluntary capacity

LEEDS CITY COUNCILLORS

Should you wish to speak with Cllr Colin Campbell, Cllr Ryk Downes or Cllr Sandy Lay, please ring 07973 521547 or email colin.campbell@leeds.gov.uk

CONTACTING YOUR MP

Should you wish to speak with the MP for Otley and Leeds Northwest, Katie White, please email katiewhitelnw@gmail.com

OTLEY TOWN COUNCIL LITTER PICK DATES

Date	Ward	Meeting Point
Saturday 6 September	Prince Henry	Wharfemeadows cafe
Wednesday 24 September	Danefield	Summercross
Saturday 4 October	Manor	Maypole, Manchester Square
Wednesday 22 October	West Chevin	Grove Hill car park
Saturday 8 November	Ashfield	Weston Drive shops
Wednesday 19 November	Prince Henry	Wharfemeadows cafe

All meeting times are 10.00am with the session lasting until noon.
From December to February there are no scheduled litter picks.

ARTICLES FOR NEXT EDITION

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

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
September 2025 - December 2025

Planning	**8 September 2025**
Environment & Sustainability	**15 September 2025**
Policy & Resources **Full Council**	**22 September 2025**
Assets **Human Resources**	**29 September 2025**
Planning **Trade & Tourism**	**13 October 2025**
Traffic & Transport **Neighbourhood Plan**	**20 October 2025**
Planning **Community Development**	**10 November 2025**
Policy & Resources **Full Council**	**17 November 2025**
Assets **Human Resources**	**1 December 2025**
Audit	**2 December 2025**
Planning **Trade & Tourism**	**8 December 2025**
Traffic & Transport **Neighbourhood Plan**	**15 December 2025**

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.

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