

Business Newsletter



March 2026



WELCOME to our Spring Newsletter

Keeping the Otley business community up to date with our activities.

Celebrating Otley's Award Winning Businesses

On Saturday 21st February we welcomed all the shortlisted businesses to Otley Golf Club to enjoy an evening celebrating the best of Otley business as voted for by the people that use those businesses.

A rigorous short-listing and mystery shopping process by industry experts from outside the area was used to find the winners:

- **Best Newcomer** - Secret Garden Cafe
- **Best Professional Service** - The Woolpack Music & Arts Studios
- **Best Retail** - Puffin Pottery
- **Best Health, Beauty & Wellness** - House of Beauty
- **Best Eatery** - Buon Apps River Lounge & Italian Restaurant
- **Best Pub/Bar** - Treehouse Bar & Kitchen
- **Rising Star** - *Joint Winners* : Katie Wilson - Althams Travel & Niamh Warrington - Monkey Puzzle Nursery
- **Outstanding Tradesperson** - Yorkshire Rhodes Removals & Storage
- **Community Award** - Courthouse Hair Lounge
- **Home Start Up** - The Motivated Learner
- **Team of the Year** - Skipton Building Society
- **Eco Friendly Business** - *Joint Winners* : The Yorkshire Marketing Company & Althams Travel

To find out how to get involved in the next Otley Business Awards in 2028:

- Please **Visit** the website: www.otleybusinessawards.co.uk, and
- **Follow** the Facebook page: @otleybusinessawards

CHANGES TO NATIONAL BUSINESS RATES

In April 2026 many businesses will see the rateable values for their businesses rise, and this may well mean a rise in business rates bills. You can find out more about this on the Government's website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-rates-revaluation-2026>), including ways the Government hopes to support businesses through this change.

Your Otley BID levy will remain at 1% of your rateable value at the time of the renewal ballot in 2024. It's worth noting that this is a very low rate compared with other local BID's who set their levies between 1.5% - 1.9%.

YOUR OTLEY BID LEVY INVOICES

In March/April BID levy invoices will be posted to all businesses within the levy area along with your Business Rates invoice.

The collection of the BID levy is undertaken by Leeds City Council on our behalf as they have access to the business rates database. If you have a query with your bill please **DO NOT contact Otley BID** as we have no access to LCC's database, **instead contact Leeds City Council rates department** on Tel: **0113 376 0359** or Email **business.rates@leeds.gov.uk** quoting your business name, address and levy account number.

It is vital that you let LCC know if you move into or out of any business premises, even if you believe you will get small business rates relief, as this is not automatic and has to be applied for.

ASK US ANYTHING!

You're invited to our Monthly Drop In Sessions on the 1st Thursday of every month from 5.30pm - 6.30pm at The Rookery on Kirkgate.

HOW TO GET A RETURN ON YOUR OTLEY BID MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR

We have lots of events planned and want to give you a chance to get involved with as many as you can. Look out for our emails with more details of how to get involved with each one over the course of the year.

1. **Buy in Otley Marquee** : Are you joining us at Otley Show on Saturday 16th May? A great way to get some PR for your business (worth £110).
2. **Rob Burrow Marathon** : Will you be opening on Sunday 10th May? Otley is a designated spectator hub with entertainment and commentary during the day from Your Harrogate Radio. There will be crowds of people lining the route - promote a special offer or encourage them to come back to your business on another day.
3. **Music in the Market Place** : Will you be involved or help promote our series of busking events in July and August by having a poster to display?
4. **Kids Funzone** : Will you be involved with the family activities on Wednesdays in the August Summer holidays by having special family friendly promotions to help drive footfall into the town and your business?
5. **Christmas Festivities** : Will you help make Otley sparkle by ordering a mini Christmas tree outside your premises and creating a special festive window display, encouraging your customers to vote in our Christmas Window dressing competition?
6. **Business of the Week** : Have you been featured yet? Take advantage of widespread promotion across Visit Otley's socials, website and the Buy In Otley website.
7. **Is there something else you'd like to see happen?** If you've got a great idea that will improve the local economy, come and talk to us at one of our **Monthly Drop-In's - the first Thursday of every month at The Rookery on Kirkgate**. We might be able to help you make it a reality.