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1. From the President

I hope you've all had a good Summer. The weather's not been too bad. Certainly it's been very dry, but we'll no doubt pay for that in due course, especially if last Saturday (20th Sep) was anything to go by – what a dreadful day! Anyhow, this is not a weather forecast (there are others far better qualified than me to deliver that) but now we are firmly into Autumn there are the usual seasonal events to look forward to: Halloween, Bonfire Night and before you know it, it will be Christmas – just 13 weeks until the big day! Which means of course that preparations are already underway for Late-night Christmas Shopping – this year on **Wednesday 3rd December**. More details are given later in this issue, and although it's primarily an event to boost trading for town-centre businesses, it has certainly become a significant community event on the calendar.

This issue also contains an update on a couple of the proposed Housing Developments around Boroughbridge. While there's obviously a lot of community interest, the business implications of yet more developments are also significant. There is a lot of related 'chatter' on Social Media with many people viewing the proposals unfavourably and it seems that recent archaeological findings may well put the brakes on them for some time to come. We shall see how that plays out.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I am making one more appeal for committee members. With almost 50 member businesses one would think there is a large enough pool of people upon which to draw. The current committee members have all done at least 4 years of service (some much longer) and there is no guarantee any will be continuing at the end of this session in February. We all run out of steam eventually, but new blood often brings with it new ideas and enthusiasm, just like in business. Thus, there is a real danger the Chamber will cease to exist in its present form unless someone steps forward. Please get in touch if you're interested.

2. Race Night Retrospective

The annual Race Night duly took place on Saturday 13th September at the Crown Hotel. Numbers were down just slightly this year, but the event was still well attended, and judging by the frequent shouts of encouragement for the horses and the general merriment, a good time was had by all (see punters avidly studying the form at right!). Any surplus made on the event goes



towards funding the Town's Christmas Lights, which of course are organised each year by the Chamber of Trade committee.

The winning Horse Sponsors were:

- Race 1: Gilchrists Bakery
- Race 2: The Dining Room
- Race 3: Elderflower Home Care
- Race 4: Reed Boardall
- Race 5: Charltons of Boroughbridge
- Race 6: Issima
- Race 7: The Crown Hotel

At right Chris Astley (The Dining Room) gets ready for his stint on the Tote Desk



Race 8 was the Charity Race where the horses (which were actually Pigs!) were sold off to sponsors just before the race at a cost of £50 each. A big thank you to those who very generously dug deep to sponsor a charity runner. The winning Pig was sponsored by KM & G Farrer. The race resulted in £200 donations each to 1st Boroughbridge Scout Group and Kirby Hill Guides respectively. The photo at left shows the President presenting one of the cheques to Mike Collins (at left), who collected the presentational cheques on behalf of both groups.

These events don't just happen by themselves of course, so a big 'thank you' goes to Chamber Vice-president Barbara Hill, as chief organiser. Probably only Barbara could 'persuade' so many businesses to part with their sponsorship money! We must also thank the Crown Hotel for free use of the St Helena room and the excellent meal, the invaluable 'Tote Helpers' under the auspices of Totemaster extraordinaire Paul Darley, Reed Boardall for their generous production of the race programmes, Jack from race organisers DA Racenights (without whom there would be no Race Night!), and most of all to the local businesses who supported the event through their generous horse sponsorship and donations. Hopefully, we'll get to do it all again next year.

3. Business Networking Event

Glyn Selway (Project Manager/Home Team Leader for RTC North - <https://rtcnorth.co.uk/>) will be presenting on "**Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Cybersecurity for Small Businesses**" on **Tuesday 21st October** at The Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge. These are very hot business topics currently and Glynn will be covering the considerations for small to medium-size businesses.

- 5:30pm – Welcome Refreshments & Networking
- 6:00pm - Presentation by Glyn Selway
- 6:45pm - Q&A
- 7pm - Meeting Closes

Directly or indirectly all businesses are becoming increasingly impacted by these major technology developments. In addition to the extraordinary developments in AI, there have also been several high-profile Cyber-attacks over the past few months at M&S, The Co-op, British Library and more recently Jaguar Landrover all having major negative business impacts. We just can't be too complacent! Come along and find out more.

4. Late-night Christmas Shopping

A further reminder that the annual Late-night Christmas Shopping event, organised each year by the Chamber of Trade committee, will take place on **Wednesday 3rd December** this year. The format will be very similar to previous years, which have invariably been huge successes. Despite intervention by the weather mid-evening last year it was still a marvellous occasion with an amazing number of people, including lots of families, turning out in support of the event.

The evening kicks-off with the official switch-on of the Christmas Tree Lights in Hall Square at 5:30pm by our Guest Celebrity (to be finalised) accompanied by the Town's Mayor, Cllr Pauline Phillips. We are fortunate to have three school choirs performing for us again this year – Boroughbridge Primary, Roecliffe Primary and Boroughbridge High. All three choirs gave wonderful performances last year and we're very much looking forward to this year's offerings. We may also have one or two community choirs singing for us again, but that still has to be confirmed.

Boroughbridge Lions will have Santa and his Sleigh on display, and we'll have a number of stalls from several local Community Groups. Mike Collins' Scout group will be in Hall Square with their famous Roast Chestnuts stall, alongside the ever-popular Mulled Wine stall organised by Boroughbridge Community Charity.

The Shop Window Display competition theme this year is "Winter Wonderland" which should provide a nice broad canvass for creativity, so we're hoping for lots of participating businesses. They will be competing for the much-coveted Trophy, won last year by Treharne's Pharmacy (see some of the team at right receiving the Trophy from the Mayor and Chamber President). This year it will again be our Guest Celebrity and the Mayor with the onerous task of judging the competition.



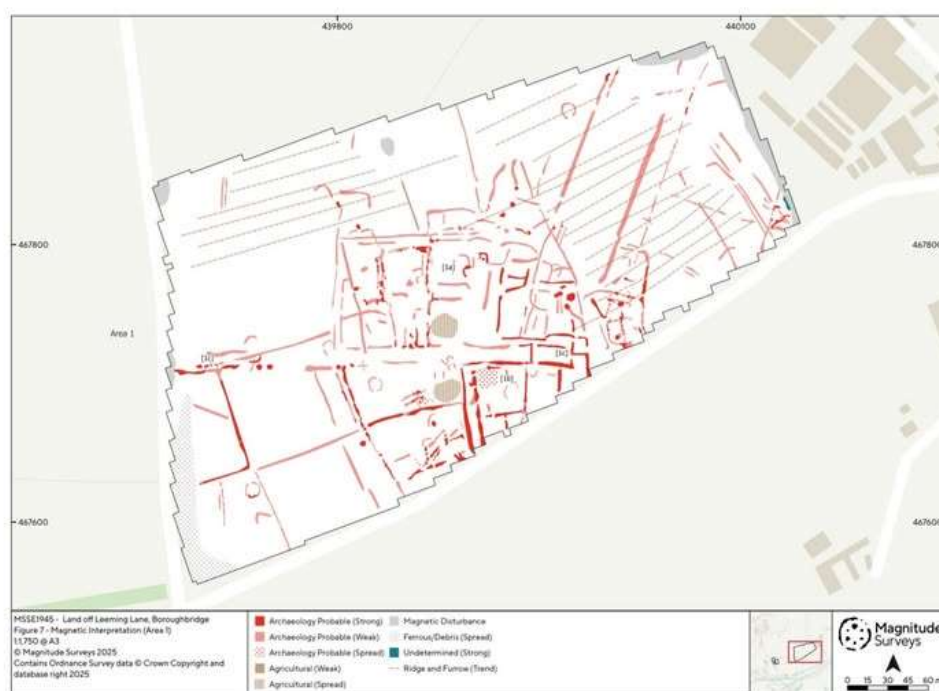
5. Proposed Housing Developments Update

Further to our report on this issue in the May Chamber Chat, both the Gladman (250 Houses) and Miller Homes Developments (167 Houses) off Leeming Lane are now on the North Yorks Planning Portal. The closing date for objections to the Gladman development was the beginning of

Sept, and the date for the Miller Homes is 11th Oct. There are currently lots of complaints including from the Police and North Yorkshire Water!

It is likely that delays may come due to recent findings. Archaeologists mapping the Gladman proposed housing development site north of Hockley Croft have identified an ancient Romano-British settlement extending across almost the whole site.

The outline and features of the settlement, including fields, roads and possible buildings, can be clearly seen marked in red on the picture below.



The North Yorkshire Council Heritage team has said in their consultation response to the Gladman planning application that extensive trial-trenching to explore the site's archaeology is required before their planning application can be determined because the site may contain monuments of national significance.

As events at the proposed Kirby Hill MSA site north-west of the village have shown, archaeology in such a sensitive historic area cannot be done quickly or cheaply. Developers must treat the long history of our community with respect and commit the time and money to properly explore and document it.

6. Snippets

You may recall from the June issue of Chamber Chat that the Mayor (Cllr Pauline Philips) and Chamber President Derek Hufton were interviewed for a forthcoming episode of the popular BBC TV programme **Escape To The Country**. Well, the programme duly screened on Monday 15th September and it included a small feature on Boroughbridge with the

(suitably edited!) interviews by Pauline and Derek. The Town was portrayed in a very favourable light and if you missed it you can watch on demand on iPlayer.

The **Coco & Bear** shop on Horsefair will be closing shortly. Apparently the owner is shortly to commence maternity leave and the Boroughbridge shop will be permanently closing to coincide.

Many of you will already know that the former Winearray premises at 36 High Street are now occupied by **Kurdish Cut** barbers. While the Chamber has no issue with legitimate businesses within our Town Centre we are aware of some disquiet amongst local residents who don't feel this an appropriate business for our High Street asking why the Chamber does not do something about it. The arrangement is solely between the Landlord and the Tenant of course.

... and keep up to date with the Chamber

News Items are regularly posted to the Chamber website (www.boroughbridgeCT.co.uk) and we post on Facebook (@BoroughbridgeCT) too.

Make sure you follow and check out these channels for regular updates, useful alerts and information.

***Footnote:** Please note that the various blue email and website links in this document are not live links – i.e. you cannot click on them. To use them simply copy the text and paste into your browser or email client.*