



President: Derek Hufton

Vice president: Tracey Wrigglesworth

February 2026

This Issue

- 1 From the President
- 2 Member News
- 3 AGM Report
- 4 Annual Subscriptions
- 5 Quiz Night
- 6 Snippets

1. From the President

The AGM has been and gone and it was pleasing (and a relief!) to see two new committee members stepping forward, which essentially ensures the Chamber continues to operate at least for another year. Further volunteers would be most welcome. Full details in the AGM feature below.

So we can now look ahead to another fun-packed year with the annual Quiz and Race Nights and Late-night Christmas Shopping extravaganza already in the pipeline. What is less certain is whether there will be any further Business Networking meetings. The ones held last session were very poorly attended, to the extent that it raises the question of whether it is worth bothering with such events. Anyhow, as a committee we'll take a look at whether we can maybe find a different formula that will attract more participants for such meetings, because after all, we are a business-based group and exist to promote a thriving business community.

Like me, I'm sure many of you are looking forward with some trepidation to the new Business Rates bills dropping through your letter box. With the various reliefs being scrapped by this government this time around, bills are set to rise significantly, adding further pressure on businesses on top of National Insurance and minimum wage rises. There's little wonder that unemployment reached a 5-year high last quarter reaching 5.2%.

The Chancellor is due to deliver her Spring Statement on 3rd March, and while it's unlikely there will be any significant fiscal changes post Budget, she will no doubt try and paint a positive picture for the economy especially with inflation falling to 3%, January retail sales up 1.8% and a recently announced £30.4 billion budget surplus in January. The economic outlook beyond the Spring Statement still looks very uncertain for business though, and there's also the little matter of the Gorton & Denton by-election (on 26th Feb) result to factor in. That will certainly be an interesting event to keep an eye on!

2. Member News

Michelle Hatfield of Chamber member Ure Life is offering a facility to all Chamber members to promote their activities on the Ure Life blog and/or online magazine. You may wish to check out the website too to see the sort of material Michelle publishes (<https://ure-life.com>). If this is something you would like to take advantage of please contact Michelle direct on 078843-276026 or via Email at info@ure-life.com.

In a change from welcoming new members in this section, sadly we are saying goodbye to some. As previously reported Winearray ceased trading during the last session and consequently will no longer be

members. In addition, a reorganisation at Blossom Home Care has resulted in their local operation (based between Boroughbridge and Ripon) closing, with relevant clients now being serviced from their York base. In addition, Derwent Mortgages (based at Marton cum Grafton) has decided not to renew their membership for this session.

3. AGM Report

Twenty members and one guest attended the **AGM** held on Wednesday 11th February at the Crown Hotel. The Committee elected for the new session was:



Derek Hufton (President)
Tracey Wrigglesworth (Vice President)
Fiona Prattley (Treasurer)
Karen Farrer

Bob Chamley has kindly offered to continue as Secretary. Sadly, both Barbara Hill and Marcus Boardall did not seek re-election this time after several years of service. Their not-insignificant contributions to the Chamber over the past few years were suitably recognised by a short presentation; see photo at right.



The official AGM business was followed by a brief discussion regarding the car parking challenges now evident in the town centre, attributed to the general steep rise in the local population and also use of the Back Lane car park by various groups (e.g. Walkers/Ramblers/Cyclists) often clogging up the car park while off 'doing their thing.' It was felt the situation was having a detrimental effect on local businesses with potential customers finding it increasingly difficult to park. The Chamber will continue to lobby the Town Council on the issue.

4. Annual Subscriptions

A further reminder that **Annual Subscriptions** became due on 1st February. The formal subscription invoice accompanied the AGM pack distributed to members mid-January. The majority of members have already renewed, but here's a gentle reminder for those few still to do so! 😊 Speedy payment by those still to pay will be much appreciated. If you've misplaced your invoice and need another, please let the Secretary know (secretary@boroughbridgeCT.co.uk).

The Subscription is held at just £50 for the year yet again (£100 for businesses with 30+ employees). On renewal, members will receive an updated membership window/door sticker reflecting the Chamber's redesigned logo.

A reminder also to check your entry on the Chamber Website Members' Business Directory at www.boroughbridgect.co.uk/directory. Ensure you are happy with your entry, that it is accurate, describes your business appropriately and is up to date. Check your contact details, and if you use Social Media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc) check that all relevant ones are showing. Please advise of any updates/changes you would like to be made to secretary@boroughbridgect.co.uk

5. Quiz Night

The next Chamber **Quiz Night** will take place on **Saturday 25th April** at The Crown Hotel Boroughbridge, 7pm start. Tickets, priced at £10 each, will be available shortly which will be advised in due course. Quizmaster Geoff Hustwit will again be taking charge to test participants' grey matter, and a light buffet will be served to tables in the interval. A cash prize will be presented to the winning team. It's always an enjoyable evening, and despite standing down from the Chamber Committee this time (see AGM report above) Barbara Hill has kindly offered to organise the event.

For the last two Quiz Nights Commence Marketing very kindly sponsored both evenings. If anyone would like to step forward and sponsor this year's event please contact the Secretary (secretary@boroughbridgect.co.uk) for further details.

6. Snippets

The Pilates Space, a Pilates studio, opened for business on Monday 23rd February at 38 High Street, the premises previously occupied until recently by Comb with Collars dog grooming.



Former Chamber member **The Anchor Inn** is under new ownership and is apparently being transformed into a venue for live music alongside the usual pub trappings. It opens from 12 noon on Friday 27th February. There's an open invitation to join them from the afternoon for first drinks in the new Anchor with the live music taking over from 8pm each evening.

... 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.