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September 2026

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1. From the President

A few things worth noting this month. Firstly, although we have a more detailed report below, I must mention the Chamber Race Night held recently on Saturday 12th September. In my humble opinion I think it was the best one yet. The attendance and atmosphere was brilliant and we raised some healthy funds towards the Town's Christmas Lights this year. The appropriate people are thanked in the feature below (item 3) so I won't repeat that here, although I would like to add my thanks to all who participated in any way, and especially our very generous local business and individual horse sponsors. The horse sponsorship is really the foundation of the event.

We have a very important business meeting coming up in October (see item 5 below). If you employ people in your business then you need to be fully aware of the Employment Law legislative changes being brought in by the present government. It's obviously important to be up to date with employment law at any time, not just to understand the rights of people you employ, but also to understand the potential implications for your business. I suspect the meeting (which also provides an opportunity to talk with other like-minded local business owners) will be very well attended. It's free of charge and we've opened it to non-member local businesses too. I hope we will see you there.

Finally a warm welcome to James Stork from BCT Accountants who has recently joined the Chamber Committee. We have been running at bare minimum for quite a while now, so it is very pleasing to have James's enthusiasm, knowledge and skills on board to boost our resources and help take the Chamber forward.

2. Member News

Congratulations to Chamber Member **The Grantham Arms** on recently receiving a Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award. Tripadvisor gives Travellers' Choice Awards to venues that consistently receive strong reviews and rank among the top 10% of properties listed on its site. The Grantham is owned by Simon Wade, and two other of Simon's pubs (The Blue Bell at Arkendale and Punch Bowl Inn at Marton cum Grafton) have also received the award. Simon also operates The Bay Tree in Stillington and the Fox and Hounds in Langthorpe.

We are delighted to welcome **James Stork** onto the Chamber Committee. James is a Director and Co-owner of long-standing Chamber member BCT Accountants on Minskip Road. He has spent 20 years working in and around finance, reaching Senior Director level at a multi-million-pound

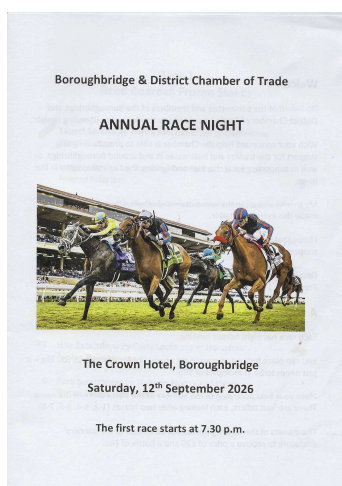
Leeds-based security company. Now at BCT, James focuses on helping owner-managed businesses get live, meaningful information about their own performance so they can make better decisions as they go, rather than only looking back at year end.

James is keen to help make Chamber membership increasingly useful for local businesses, with clear, practical support and more ways for members to connect and help each other grow. Get the value right for members and the businesses inclusion will grow on its own, making the question "why wouldn't you be a member?" rather than "why would you?" We look forward to James's contribution.

3. Race Night Retrospective

The annual Race Night duly took place on Saturday 12th September at the Crown Hotel. The event was extremely 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!). A

healthy surplus was made on the event, which goes directly towards funding the Town's Christmas Lights. It's always worth a reminder that it is the Chamber of Trade committee who organised the Christmas Lights each year.



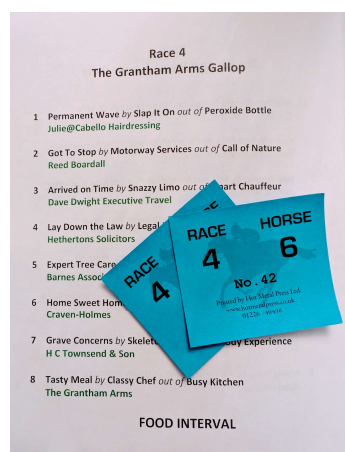
At right Kahl Shahjahan collects the spoils on behalf of Hethertons Solicitors who were victorious in the 4th race.

The Winning Horse Sponsors were:

- Race 1: Canal Garage
- Race 2: KM&G Farrer
- Race 3: The Beauty Shop
- Race 4: Hetherton's Solicitors
- Race 5: Ali's Barbers
- Race 6: Issima
- Race 7: Bloomerang Florists



Race 8 was the Charity Race where the eight horses (which were actually Afghan Hounds!) 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 Hound was sponsored by KM & G Farrer who very kindly donated their race winnings back. The race resulted in a £400 donation to Boroughbridge Junior Football Club. The photo at left shows the Chamber President Derek Hufton presenting the cheque to Chris Fahy (at left), who collected the cheque on behalf of the club.



These events don't just happen by magic of course, so a big 'thank you' goes to chief organiser Barbara Hill. Probably only Barbara could 'persuade' so many businesses and individuals to part with their sponsorship money! We must also thank the Crown Hotel for free use of the St Helena room for the event and the excellent meal, and also Bloomerang Florists for providing the floral table decoration free of charge. More thanks are due to the invaluable 'Tote Helpers' under the auspices of Totemaster extraordinaire Paul Darley, to Reed Boardall for their generous production of the race programmes and Tim from race organisers DS Racenights (without whom there would be no Race Night!). A huge thank you too to all 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.

4. Employment Law Update Meeting

On **Tuesday 20th October** Ashley Heeley Consultant Employment Executive at Chamber members Hethertons Solicitors will be providing us with an update on the recent legislative changes relating to Employment Law – an important topic for all businesses. This will cover changes to such areas as Paternity Day-one Rights, SSP, Redundancy, Enforcement (Fair Work



Agency), Holiday Pay Records, etc. Further changes are also coming in October this year and in January 2027 relating to Harassment and Unfair Dismissal. It provides an essential opportunity to get right up to date on these very important topics. The meeting will be at the Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge. Tea/coffee will be served from 5:30pm with the presentation starting at 6pm and the meeting closing at 7pm. There will be no charge for the meeting. Chamber non-members also very welcome.

5. Christmas Late-night Shopping

It may seem a bit early to be writing about Christmas, but planning and preparations for the Late-night Christmas Shopping event on **Wednesday**

2nd December are well underway. One important item to note is that the theme for the best-dressed **Window Competition** this year is “**My Favourite Christmas Carol.**” We had a record 25 entries for the competition last year (won by Bloomerang Florists) so hopefully the theme provides yet another wide canvas to encourage lots of participants.

As usual, the event will start with the switch-on of the Christmas Tree lights in **Hall Square at 5:30pm** by our celebrity guest Georgey Spanswick from Radio York, accompanied by the Mayor, Cllr Zoe Metcalfe. We will have Santa and his Sleigh (courtesy of the Lions), various Choirs, Hog Roast and lots of community stalls dotted around the Town in addition to many of the shops opening late. Further details later.

6. Back Lane Car Park Maintenance

We've been informed by the Town Council that **Back Lane Car Park** will very shortly be getting something of a makeover. This was originally scheduled for week commencing 21st September but has been put back one week to 28th September. It will be closed for the duration of the work (until 2nd October) and the work will involve:

- relining/lining the car spaces and arrows
- filling the potholes
- re-tarmacing the entrance
- replacing the concrete speed bump / removing the plastic speed bump
- removing the grass sections either side of the middle car parking to create some welcome additional car spaces

The works are costing in excess of £18,000 and new signage will follow in the spring. The Town Council has also invested in upgrading the toilet block over the past year. The car park continues to be a bone of contention with large numbers of spaces often taken up by cyclists and walkers, preventing shoppers and local business staff finding a parking space. Although the extra spaces will not be sufficient to solve these problems any expansion is greatly welcomed.

7. Snippets

We were hoping to receive some feedback from NYC during September regarding the **Boroughbridge Town Investment Plan** following the meeting we hosted on 4th June, along with the results of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) online survey and face to face engagement phase. Sadly, we have received no feedback to date. As soon as we do it will be shared with members.

Sunflower Bakery, which opened on Horsefair in 2022, is now under new ownership. We understand the present team is staying on and although there will likely be some changes, the new owners are keeping the bakery pretty much as it is.

Business North Yorkshire has launched a new website for local businesses. The new platform brings together support, advice and opportunities to help businesses across North Yorkshire start, grow and thrive. Whether you are new start-up, established company or exploring inward investment opportunities in North Yorkshire, the new website could be your starting point for accessing support, advice and opportunities in North Yorkshire. Working alongside the Business North Yorkshire team, the website will support business growth and showcase North Yorkshire as a great place to do business. <https://businessnorthyorkshire.co.uk/>

An article featuring Boroughbridge, including a local business perspective, has recently been published in **Yorkshire Life Magazine**. It is a good read and you can find it on the following link (note: you may need to copy and paste this into your browser to action it):

<https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/magazines/yorkshire/26208567.boroughbridge-bustling-yorkshire-town-just-off-a1/>

... 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 it into your browser or email client.