



MONKBAR



at the heart of York

Spring 2005

AT THE FOREFRONT OF TECHNOLOGY

We were the first hotel in York to launch an absolutely free of charge broadband and wireless service to our guests.

Only 10 per cent of hotels in the UK offer this service and many charge for the pleasure. This new service enables business guests and conference delegates to use their laptops throughout the hotel giving them more freedom, flexibility and access to the Internet, at no cost.

But for those of you who prefer to leave the laptop in the office, the hotel has also set up laptop free zones in the lounges!



RESTAURANT REFURBISHMENT

The Cloisters Restaurant has undergone an extensive facelift and customers can expect to enjoy dining with atmospheric lighting and sumptuous surroundings! It is a lovely choice for family parties and a traditional Yorkshire Sunday lunch with Claude's cracking Yorkshire Puds (world famous throughout York!).

Michael Cummings, Head Chef, tries on the Yorkshires for size!



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- The Monkbar in the Community
- Royal Ascot uncovered
- York Hospitality Awards
- York's upcoming events



Welcome to our spring edition of Monkbar Matters

Thank you for all your feedback about our first issue of Monkbar Matters, we're so glad that you enjoyed learning more about our hotel, our events and our people.

Overwhelmingly you told us how much our personality shone through in the last newsletter so we hope that you find more of the same in this second issue.

It's going to be a busy and high profile year for York this year with Royal Ascot coming to town and in addition to that we have a calendar that's packed full of special events too, which you will find on the back page of the newsletter.

In the last issue I focused on telling you more about the facilities at the Monkbar and what we have to offer, this issue I'd like to tell you a little bit about what being part of Best Western Hotels means to us.

Best Western International, Inc., is the world's largest hotel brand with more than 4,000 hotels in 80 countries. Each hotel is individually owned and operated so the hotels can retain their own unique character and charm, whilst the guest enjoys the assurance of a quality brand, committed to service, value and excellence. The UK Central Office is based in York, so it is very interesting for us to meet the hoteliers from around the world who are coming to visit the offices.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and we look forward to meeting you.

June Nelsey

June Nelsey
Hotel Director

ROYAL ASCOT UNCOVERED

Behind the hype, hats and hospitality lies the real Royal Ascot. The first royal race meeting took place as early as August 11, 1711, after Queen Anne chanced upon a stretch of land – East Cote – and bought it. Royal Ascot as we know it today didn't start to evolve until 1768, when the first four-day meeting took place. The Gold Cup was introduced in 1807 with the roots of today's traditional Royal Enclosure dress code emerging at the same time. In 1813, Parliament passed the Act of Enclosure to ensure the property – although owned by the Crown – would be used as a racecourse for the public. The first royal procession followed 12 years later.



York racecourse has never hosted anything like it. With champion jockey Frankie Dettori recently proclaiming that York "is one of the best tracks in the world," and with York recently voted the nation's favourite city in the Daily Telegraph Travel Awards – York has never shone so brightly as a desirable destination.

We'll be celebrating Royal Ascot at York in style with free goodies for all guests, a Royal Ascot dinner menu and wine list to toast the winners and a free transport service to and from the course. For bookings do call our Reservations Manager Lynn Fairweather and make sure you're part of this exciting week, the like of which York will never see again!

For more information about the Race Meeting and to book rooms with us, call our reservation department now on 01904 667701 or visit www.monkbarhotel.co.uk and www.royalascot.co.uk

For the first time in its 294 year history, as a result of a £185m redevelopment of its home course – Royal Ascot is moving, for one year only, 200 miles north to York. Considered the premier race meeting in the UK, Ascot has more group races – 16 altogether – than any other meeting during the year. Ascot is the most glamorous see and be-seen event of the social and racing season, attended by the Queen, aristocracy, celebrities and followers of fashion alike.

Between Tuesday 14th and Saturday 18th June, at least 250,000 race enthusiasts are expected to fill the stands. Of these, 50,000 locals, 10,000 each day will be filling the Rails Stand, which has been specially created as a thank you to York's local residents. The rest will be travelling to York from all over the country.



YORK HOSPITALITY AWARDS

At the Annual York Hospitality Awards, known as the York "Oscars" the hotel once again flourished with finalists in four of the categories – Sandra Cookson from the Restaurant in the Supervisor/Manager category, John Gomersall in the Trainee of the Year, Nathaniel Kormmeier as Receptionist of the Year, and Elizabeth Duck as Administration Assistant. We beat off strong competition from around the city to secure for the second year running the coveted title of "Employer of the Year". June said "I was thrilled to accept the Rose Bowl on behalf of the Monkbar Team, whose motto is "It's the Teamwork that makes the Dream work".



ATTENTION!



Members of the Monkbar team took part in the Poppy Challenge, helping to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. The Activity Day was held in the autumn at Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Strensall and attracted teams from all types of organisations based in York. Captain Andy Adair organised the assault course to ensure that all enjoyed a great day, and that maximum funds were raised for this worthy cause.



Dave Asbury, Sous Chef, has been out and about in the York community, with a special “Chefs in Schools” initiative with North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership. The project involved visiting schools and getting kids excited about cooking skills. Dave visited Archbishop Holgate’s School and Stockton on the Forest School and introduced “Foods of the World” and “Healthy Eating” to the children. The swordfish was definitely a hit, but the deer was too much like Bambi!

FESTIVE PUDS PILE ON THE POUNDS FOR THE BRITISH RED CROSS

The hotel raised over £1,000 from hosting its second Red Cross Pudding Party. Members of the public were invited to bake their favourite festive sweet and enjoy a seasonal evening of pudding tasting. 120 puddings were tasted on the evening with Elly Fiorentini from BBC Radio York sampling the winners. (An awful job, but someone has to do it!)

We plan to continue our support of the British Red Cross Pudding Parties by encouraging all York Hotels restaurants to produce the puddings for the Pudding Party at this year’s York Festival of Food and Drink in September.

Right:
Dave Asbury,
Sous Chef, tempts
Elly with his trifle



NEW ROOM DESIGNS PLUS AWARENESS TRAINING

We have completed designs for two bedrooms for the less able-bodied in the executive Lodge with convenient disabled parking close by. They each offer wheelchair shower access, and full support at the wash basin and toilet. The hotel is very focussed on ensuring recognition for everyone throughout the hotel and Debbie Wharton our Assistant Manager is responsible for “Awareness Training”.



EVENTS IN YORK AND AT THE MONKBAR

March The City walls flourish with daffodils, so take advantage of our free parking and book in for Sunday lunch so afterwards you can walk the walls and really feel that summer is just around the corner!

June Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th June – Royal Ascot at York with all the pomp and pageantry of this most famous London race meet, right here in Yorkshire! Come for the night, come for the week, but come and don't miss this lifetime experience.

July 8 – 16 York Early Music Festival
13 – 24 Shakespeare Festival, Rowntree Park. Open air production of Romeo and Juliet

August 5 – 7 Roman Festival
16 – 18 Ebor Race Meeting - York Racecourse

September 16 – 25 York Festival of Food & Drink

October 1 – 9 York Comedy Festival

November 4 – 6 Guy Fawkes 400th Anniversary Celebrations
6 The Monkbar Wedding Fair
24 – 27 St. Nicholas Fayre

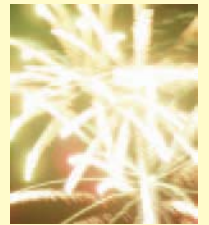
December 10 – 11 Festival of Angels

A month of Christmas Celebrations – Parties, Puddings and Poppers, Traditional Family Sunday Lunches

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY?

Exciting Continental-style projects designed to further enhance what the city has to offer have been unveiled. They include innovative plans to introduce storybook evening walking trails, light sculptures and video artwork onto historic churches. The City walls will also be enhanced with new illuminations to transform York into a City of Light.

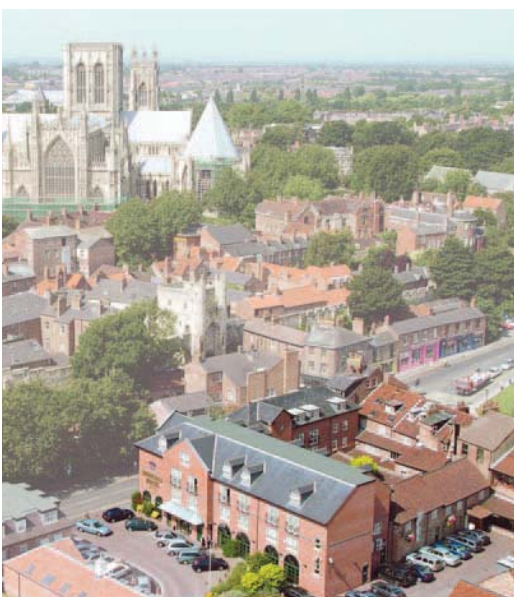
Not to miss will be the Guy Fawkes Celebrations over the weekend of 4th – 6th November when the city celebrates the 400th Anniversary of one of its most notable ancestors!



FROM SLOVAKIA WITH LOVE!

Two new Monkbar team members, Branislav Brtan and Sdenka Slivinska who joined the Monkbar in November 2004, will be tying the knot in Slovakia and honeymoon right here in York. Bruno proposed to Sdenka in the romantic city of York.

Zdenka (21) and Branislav (24) were introduced to the hotel in November 2004, and arrived at Newcastle Airport speaking very little English! Zdenka works in the Restaurant and Branislav is Chef de Partie in the kitchen. They are getting married in July in Slovakia with all their family and then spending their honeymoon in York seeing the sights they don't have time to enjoy when they are working! Their English is now very good, but unfortunately the same cannot be said for our Slovakian!



Best Western
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