

## YORKSHIRE CHAMPIONS GROUP



**Nick Garthwaite**

**Managing Director of Christeyns Ltd**

**Chairman of West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce**

### **Background Information:**

Born in London in 1957, Nick has spent most of his life so far in Yorkshire, and thus would like to be considered an honorary Yorkshireman! Married to Debra for 38 years, two daughters, Victoria and Jemma who are both married and each have two children. This means Nick has four young grandchildren to spend his spare time and money on!

Nick started working life as an Apprentice Engineer at David Brown Gear Industries in Huddersfield who manufacture gears and gear units in the 1970's. During this time, he gained qualifications in Mechanical Engineering at Huddersfield Technical College followed by Huddersfield Polytechnic (now Huddersfield University). He held a role in Internal Sales and Marketing which culminated with him becoming a salesman for David Browns in the early 1980's. In 1984 he joined Flender, a large German firm who operated in the same market as David Browns. Nick spent 26 years with Flender (the last five years being Siemens who acquired Flender in 2005), starting as Salesman, Sales Manager, Sales Director and finally Managing Director.

Nick joined Christeyns in August 2010 as Managing Director. Christeyns is based in Bradford and produce chemicals for the commercial laundry, professional hygiene, food and beverage production and also construction sectors. During the last 10 years Nick has been heavily involved in acquiring seven other companies in the UK, for the Christeyns group.

A very strong advocate of "Process thinking" and what might be described as an "Empowered Culture" and applying this to all aspects of the work place, these principles are clear to see within Christeyns Bradford and how they have brought positive benefits to the business and the people within the business.

Nick was appointed President of Bradford Chamber of Commerce in July 2017 and also sits on the Board of the "Bradford Economic Partnership".

Immensely proud of coming up with the initiative of "Bradford Manufacturing Week", which was a Bradford Chamber of Commerce activity to bring students aged 14 – 18 years old into Bradford manufacturing companies and get a taste of what the modern world of manufacturing looks like today, a very successful initiative which was run again in 2020 despite the challenges of COVID.

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Spare time – well obviously the four grandchildren, loves walking in the Dales and Lakes, clay shooting, personal recent highlights include abseiling 50 metres off the Leeds Met University building in aid of the Gherka Welfare Fund, as well as the Bradford Manufacturing Weeks.

## Sectors worked in and routes taken:


## What I would like to get involved in: (please tick)

Inspirational Talk	Visits to my place of work	Mentoring / Coaching young people	Other (please state)
✓		✓	