



**MEETING
DATES**

REVIEW **November 2005**

2005

(Second
Monday)

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

12 December
(Safari)

HARROGATE BUSINESS AWARDS 2005

- Ackrill's Media Group launches a new Awards Scheme open to all businesses
- Marks the achievements of the many very successful companies in this District
- Main Sponsor is NatWest Bank, Commercial Banking Manager, Keith Gaunt
- Harrogate Chamber is sponsoring the Best Small Company of the Year Award
- Closing date for entries is 31st December 2005 – see www.harrogatetoday.co.uk

2006

HARROGATE COLLEGE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

9 January

- College Principal Julie Hudson outlines changes to focus on business needs
- Now focussing on vocational training – no longer offering GCSE's
- Closer collaboration with Leeds Metropolitan University business programmes
- Training for 16-19 year olds plus Workforce development to fill local vacancies
- Many opportunities for partnerships to meet the needs of local businesses

13 February

CHAMBER MEMBERS' NEWS

13 March

- Northern Lights gain top regional accolade for LSC public relations campaign
- Ottaways open West Park Pavilions with a flourish for top quality niche retailing
- Shared District Mailing – low cost business-to-business promotion opportunity
- Harrogate's 2nd Business Market – Monday 8th May 2006 at Pavilions of Harrogate
- Next meeting is the very popular Business Safari – 'speed-dating' for business
- Limited to two reps per Company – pre-booking essential as space is limited

10 April

Next Meeting – 12th December 2005

8 May
Business
Market
& AGM

Monday 12th December – The Harrogate Club, 36 Victoria Avenue

Business Networking Safari + Christmas Buffet

Members and invited guests only – pre-booking essential for this meeting

12 June

Monday 9th January 2006 – The Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate
"Pricing & Profit"

– a practical workshop on how to improve the performance of your business

led by Simon Pease, DSC Accountants

PROMOTING HARROGATE BUSINESS

Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce, PO Box 8, Harrogate, HG2 8XB

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Business Awards 2005

Ackrill Media Group has recently launched their new **Business Awards 2005** in association with **NatWest Bank**, to mark the achievements of the many very successful companies in the Harrogate District. The Harrogate Chamber has just agreed to sponsor the **Best Small Company of the Year Award**.

Ackrill's Managing Director, Richard Bell and Editor, Jean MacQuarrie came along to the November meeting to explain the Awards Scheme and to thank the Chamber for their support.

Jean MacQuarrie was pleased to report that 40 entries had already been received in the two weeks since the launch and she encouraged Chamber members to either enter their own company or nominate another company or person for one of the nine categories of awards, all sponsored by local Companies or Groups:

- Most innovative company or product
- Young entrepreneur of the year
- Best small company of the year (under 50 employees)
- Best large company of the year (over 50 employees)
- Employee of the year
- Best company website of the year
- Business personality of the year
- Lifetime achievement award
- Best rural initiative

The Awards are open to companies trading in Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough, Wetherby, Nidderdale, Northallerton, Thirsk and surrounding areas. **Closing date for entries is 31st December.**

Richard Bell emphasised the importance of receiving as many entries as possible in each of the categories, and encouraged members to look at their own business against these varied categories.

The Business Awards are intended to be a celebration of the business community in Harrogate & District and the entry procedure is very straight forward – please see details on the website (as below).

The **Awards Gala Dinner** will take place at the Majestic Hotel on **30th March 2006**. Individual tickets or tables of ten can be booked online with **discounts** being offered for bookings before 31st December 2005.

Chamber Chief Executive Brian Dunsby stressed that the Award Scheme would be promoted across all of the Harrogate District and adjoining areas, which was also the target for our 2nd Business Market on 8th May.

Harrogate Chamber President Brian Haines will be on the Judging Panel and he thanked Jean and Richard for providing this platform for promotion of business and the Chamber. He endorsed the Business Awards and urged all members to enter as soon as possible.

Full details are available via Business Awards link www.harrogatetoday.co.uk or Tel: 01423 707504

TRANSFORMING HARROGATE COLLEGE

Principal of Harrogate College, Julie Hudson, has 23 years' experience in Further Education and has been a senior manager at the College since its merger with Leeds Metropolitan University. She has seen lots of change internally and externally in the skills sector, including experience in developing partnerships and collaborative work in both education and training.

Julie's presentation covered the following points:-

Transforming Harrogate College

- Vocational focus
- Local demand
- Opportunities for developing programmes
- Government Agendas

What is the Harrogate College Business?

- Further Education
- Higher Education
- 14-16 year old provision
- Community Education
- Workforce Development

Leeds Metropolitan University

- Facilities development
- Learning opportunities
- Partnership activity
- Progression opportunities
- Innovation and Enterprise

National Agendas and Local Priorities

- 16-19 year old priorities
- Skills Agenda/Workforce Development
- Skills for life
- Regional Development Agency
- Harrogate Borough Council
- National Childcare Strategy

Opportunities for Partnership

- Workforce development
- Apprenticeships
- Employer Training Programme
- Foundation Degree development
- Joint bidding
- Enterprise activity

Julie is keen to forge relationships with more local businesses, so please contact Jacqui Cooling, Business Development Officer at Harrogate College on 01423 878399 or e-mail j.cooling@leedsmet.ac.uk

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

Having problems with Royal Mail?

Another member has complained that they are having problems with their postal services and as a result of them complaining to Royal Mail we understand that both companies have now received an apology.

If you are experiencing any problems with mail not getting through on time or deliveries not being received, please let us know. If you do not have any success with Royal Mail, we can also advise **Postwatch** who will then check that Royal Mail respond to the complaint and rectify the problem.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Business Networking Safari No. 6

Enclosed with this REVIEW is the notice and booking form for the sixth Business Networking Safari, at the Harrogate Club on Monday, 12th December, which will include a FREE Christmas Buffet for members only.

There are two minor changes to the format this time. As before, up to two representatives per company can take part in the Safari, but now we ask that you **move around as a pair** at this event so that as many member companies as possible can be represented.

The other change in format is that following the usual short introductions, **each table will be themed** to encourage discussion on seven different aspects of making your business a success. Currently the proposed seven themes are:-

- Accounting
- Coaching/Training
- Finance for growing your business
- Human Resources
- Information & Communication Technology
- Marketing
- Public Relations

These are subject to change before the event.

Business Safari No. 5 in August was over-booked, so we recommend you book early to ensure you have a place at this popular event as space is strictly limited.

MEMBERS' FORUM

Northern Lights scoops top regional PR award

Chamber member **Northern Lights PR** has won the region's top accolade for public relations. They were awarded the Grand Prix prize for the best regional campaign in the **PRide Awards** organised by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

Their campaign for the Learning and Skills Council encouraged more young people to consider Apprenticeships as a career option.

Victoria Tomlinson, founder and owner of Northern Lights, said: *"The most gratifying point about the award was that this was not a high profile, glitzy campaign but about vigorous research, creative ideas and, most of all, delivering measurable results."*

The Learning and Skills Council North Yorkshire said: *"Northern Lights created a campaign which gave Apprenticeships the esteem and credibility that they deserve. Young people clearly changed their views through the road shows and are now looking at Apprenticeships as a serious option alongside sixth form and college. This is a real breakthrough and a significant achievement."*

For more information about Apprenticeships telephone 08000 150 600. For Northern Lights contact: Victoria Tomlinson 01423 562400.

Ottaways of Harrogate becomes a "Pavilion"

The launch of **West Park Pavilions** in September was incredibly successful, with over 700 people attending the formal opening by Phil Willis. Polly's Pantry from Moorland Nurseries has now taken over the restaurant.

West Park Pavilions now comprises:-

Polly's Pantry - Restaurant

The Dressing Room

- Evening wear, accessories and alterations.

Box2 - Designer clothes for sizes 14 - 30

Billy & Gruff - Cashmere

Woods of Bradford - Pianos.

Peek a boutique

- Babies and children's designer clothes

Blacks Fresh Flower House - Fresh flowers.

Owner, Ray Ottaway said, *"The common denominator is that they are all at the top of their market. We are looking for two more compatible businesses to join us. The benefits are enormous and the rents are low, but the "Pavilions" have to be really good at what they do. It is a fantastic opportunity for businesses offering really high standards of product and service."*

If you wish to take up this opportunity please telephone Ray or Tracy Ottaway on 01423 566566.

P.S. Chamber Chief Executive Brian Dunsby says he can also recommend Ottaway's "Man and Van" Transport Service for taking small and medium-sized loads of boxes and equipment around the UK.

Launch of Harrogate Car Share.com

The Harrogate Car Share.com scheme will be launched on 30th November at the Harrogate International Centre. As car sharing is becoming increasingly important in the overall transport 'mix' there are now over 50 regional car sharing schemes operating in the UK. They help to relieve congestion

If you are interested in taking part in this scheme either personally or to offer this scheme to your employees, please contact:

Angela Cleary, Harrogate Car Share on 01423 724555 e-mail angela@harrogatecarshare.co.uk or visit the website www.harrogatecarshare.com

NEW MEMBER

Davidson Webber PLC (Law Firm)

Neil Large, Partner

Royal House, 110 Station Parade, Harrogate, HG1 1EP

Tel: 01423 727272 **Fax:** 01423 727200

E-mail: neillarge@davidsonwebber.com

Web site: www.davidsonwebber.com

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

Government responsibility for tax credits

Responsibility for the payment of Working Tax Credit has now passed from employers to HMRC.

All new eligible employees will now have their credits **paid directly into their bank accounts** and the Government expects the change to save business around £115 million every year.

Further information available at:

www.gnn.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=176732&NewsAreaID=2

Free guide about managing stress

The Health and Safety Executive has published a free guide to help small firms understand and adopt its best-practice guidelines for effectively managing stress in the workplace. The guide has been produced in collaboration with the International Stress Management Association and offers practical guidance on controlling and managing stress – **an obligation under the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations**.

The HSE's stress standards and the free guidance can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/stress/standards

Leisure and retail warned about DDA compliance

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) has issued a stark warning to the leisure and retail sectors that businesses risk being taken to court if they don't take action to improve the accessibility options and assistance they offer to customers with disabilities.

The DRC says these two sectors have been slow to meet their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), which came into force in October 2004 and requires businesses to make **'reasonable adjustments'** to improve accessibility.

Further information available at:

www.drc.org.uk/newsroom/newsdetails.asp?id=858§ion=1

Fresh advice on copyright law

As part of its ongoing 'What is the Key?' campaign to explain intellectual property issues to small firms, the UK Patent Office has issued a fresh reminder about the **importance of understanding copyright law**. Many firms mistakenly believe that copyright is only relevant to creative ventures such as musicians and artists, and the Patent Office has published an explanation clarifying the rules and how they apply to all businesses.

Further information and the Patent Office's explanation of copyright at:

www.patent.gov.uk/media/pressrelease/2005/3108.htm

Help on tackling ID fraud

The Home Office has published a leaflet providing practical advice on how to **avoid identity theft**, and what to do if you become a victim. Estimates suggest that over 100,000 people are affected by identity crime every year, and the Government is urging businesses and private individuals to shred all personal or sensitive financial documentation to combat the risks.

Further information from the Home Office at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1364

OFT publishes new credit licence forms

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has published a set of new forms for businesses that need to apply for, renew or modify their consumer credit licences (CCLs).

These **licences are required** by any firm that offers credit arrangements to consumers, for example hire purchase agreements. The new forms are designed to be easier to use and are accompanied by a new guidance booklet aimed at smaller firms, entitled **'Do you need a credit licence?'**

The forms and guidance booklet are available at:

www.oft.gov.uk/News/Press+releases/2005/193-05.htm

New Code of Practice on pricing discounted goods

A new Code of Practice for Traders on Price Indications came into force on 21 October, introducing a series of new guidelines and requirements for businesses selling **discounted goods** online, via mail order or at factory outlets. It makes specific provisions for price indications and clarifies the circumstances in which price comparisons can be made.

Further information available at:

www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=174416&NewsAreaID=2

Small firms urged to Get Safe Online

The National High-Tech Crime Unit is preparing to launch the UK's first national awareness campaign warning of the dangers of Internet crime.

The Get Safe Online initiative has been under development since August and was launched at the end of October with an initial focus on providing information about **avoiding Internet crime** to small businesses and consumers. The initiative is sponsored by private sector stakeholders including BT, Dell, eBay and Microsoft, as well as several of the UK's leading high street banks.

Further information on Get Safe Online available at:

www.getsafeonline.org

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