



REVIEW

**March
2006**

MEETING
DATES
2006

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

- Ackrill's Business Awards Dinner on 30th March is nearly sold out – book now!
- Northern Rail aiming to promote Harrogate & Knaresborough – needs offers
- Harrogate's Council's car parking policy and practices to come under scrutiny
- Royal Mail's Claro Road Office plans to close for collections every afternoon

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

- Fire Risk Assessment becomes responsibility of Occupiers from 1st October
- Web Site accessibility for all is now covered by DDA Guidelines from BSI
- Limited Companies with no employees can save cost of Liability Insurance
- New DTI study shows 35% of businesses are still suffering virus infections
- New DWP Booklet offers guidance on low-cost adjustments to meet DDA.
- Late payment policies by large Companies highlighted on new database
- VAT requirements for on-line traders have now been clarified by HMRC
- New FREE Health & Safety Advisory Service open for small businesses

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Networking Dinners – next ones are on Fridays 24th March, 21st April & 19th May – all at 19.30 at the White Hart Hotel. Then Friday 23rd June at the Old Swan
- Harrogate 2006 Business Market planned for Monday 8th May – book quickly!
- Chamber AGM at 19.30 after the Business Market + FREE Buffet if you book!

Future Meetings

Monday 10th April, 18.15 – Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, Harrogate

Harrogate Integrated Traffic & Transport Study

Joint Presentation of issues and proposals by

North Yorkshire County Council and Atkins Consultants.

Monday 8th May - HARROGATE 2006 BUSINESS MARKET + AGM & Buffet

14.00-19.00 at Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground

Please pass the enclosed Brochure & Enquiry Form to another business - extra copies are available on request for inclusion in your own mailings.

PROMOTING HARROGATE BUSINESS

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

Tel: 01423 879208 Fax: 01423 870025 E-mail: info@harrogatechamber.org Website: harrogatechamber.org

10 April

8 May
Business
Market
& AGM

12 June

10 July

14 August

11 September

9 October

13 November

11 December

BUSINESS NETWORKING SAFARI

The seventh Business Networking Safari was well attended with 41 members taking part in the event at the White Hart Hotel. Each member met all present!

During the "post-Safari briefing" members agreed the format worked well with several novel suggestions for improvement of Business Safari 8 on 14th August.

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

Ackrills Business Awards

The **Gala Awards Dinner** for the Ackrills Business Awards will take place on Thursday, **30th March** at the Majestic Hotel. A few tickets for the Dinner may still be available via the Ackrills Business Awards website: www.harrogate.today.co.uk (via Business Awards link)

Harrogate Chamber is sponsoring the **Best Small Company of the Year Award** and Chamber President, Brian Haines, was one of the judges. The 33 entrants have been narrowed down to 6 finalists, including some Harrogate Chamber members.

Finalists and winner to be published in April REVIEW.

Bank of England Agent to speak at November Meeting

We are pleased to report that Mark Pratt, the Bank of England Agent for the Northern Region, has agreed to speak at the 13th November meeting at Cedar Court.

His presentation will cover "Monetary Policy and the Regional Economy" and should be around the time of the Chancellor's pre-budget announcements. Mark is interested to know what members think about the Monetary Policy, what should happen to interest rates and what is affecting the economy in Yorkshire.

Northern Rail - Promotional Offers

Many thanks to the members who responded to Northern Rail's appeal for promotional offers to attract visitors from West Yorkshire to Harrogate. These were passed onto Northern Rail for their campaign material.

Their offer to West Yorkshire residents is a £3 return ticket from anywhere in West Yorkshire to Harrogate and Knaresborough.

If you have any more offers or suggestions for this, please send them directly to Northern Rail as below.

Drew Haley, Client & Stakeholder Manager East, Northern Rail Limited. Tel 07743 815039
Email: drew.haley@northernrail.org

Royal Mail Opening Times

The Caller's Office at the Sorting office on Claro Road is going to reduce opening hours to 07.00 - 13.00.

The Chamber has written to the Chief Executive of Royal Mail complaining strongly that this will cause inconvenience to businesses and residents alike whenever they have to collect undelivered mail, etc.

How you can influence Harrogate's Car Parking Policy

As reported in February REVIEW, we need to receive examples from members of problems they have encountered with car parking in Harrogate town centre.

We believe the way in which the regulations are enforced in Harrogate are having an adverse affect on business and deterring visitors from visiting the town.

It is important that evidence is received from your personal or your customers, colleagues, family, friends' experiences with problems and unwarranted parking tickets. Without this support we will not have a good case to put to the Council Scrutiny Commission.

Could your employees do with an extra boost?

Channel 4 TV is working with the European business guru of the year whose main aim is to put small independent businesses on the map. Goals are to get staff to hit their targets, become more proactive and ultimately care for the business as passionately as if it was their own. The Chamber has been asked to help.

A small business in Yorkshire is required with between 15 and 100 staff, particularly in the customer service area, who would be interested in being featured in the motivational series "Boost Your Staff's Energy!"

For more information please contact Ben Cook on 0207 907 0899 – and also advise the Chamber.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Networking Dinners 2006

The first Chamber Networking Dinner of 2006 was thoroughly enjoyed by those members and guests who participated on Friday, 24th February.

Hosted by The Old Swan in pleasant, refurbished surroundings, the event was attended by ten people. Good food, wine, friendly company and even some beneficial networking (!) were appreciated by all.

The Networking Dinners will take place each month with the next one being held at the **White Hart Hotel's** acclaimed **Hart's Restaurant** who are offering a **free bottle of House Wine** per 4 meals on **Friday, 24th March**. Meals will be from around £14.95 per head.

This Special Offer is available for members and their guests, which can be your partner, business colleague, business clients, staff, etc, etc. A full list of the dates up to June 2006 is available from the Secretariat.

To book places please contact Rebecca Bulley at the White Hart Hotel - Tel: 01423 505681 or Fax 01423 568354 or e-mail: Rebecca@whitehart.net The suggested timing is 7 for 7.30pm. Guests welcome.

If you would prefer a private dinner party, but would still like to take advantage of the special offer, simply indicate this when you book your table.

Harrogate 2006 Business Market Monday, 8th May from 14.00 - 19.00

The Harrogate 2006 Business Market brochure has been circulated to around 4,000 businesses in and around Harrogate. Extra supplies are available from the Secretariat if you are able to display or distribute them in your own mailings. PDF version available for e-mail.

Please make sure you send in your Exhibition Booking form as soon as possible to secure your place. This was circulated with the February REVIEW but is also on the Chamber website, or by request from the Secretariat.

Three sizes of exhibition space will be available to members at the discounted rates of £60, £100 or £150 for the different sizes. Non-members will be permitted to exhibit if space is available at much higher rates.

This is a very low-cost promotion opportunity and we need YOUR help to attract as many visitors as possible - the more visitors, the better for YOUR business! Please contact the Secretariat for a PDF file or bulk supplies of the brochure and tickets.

AGM Nominations

The Management Group have approved the following nominations for Officers and Management Committee Members for election at the AGM on 8th May:

President: John Hart, Harrogate Ladies' College

Past-President: Brian Haines, Commpete Limited

Vice-Presidents: Robert Whiteley, Pavilions; Martin Wilks, Lords; Granville Simpson, The Rocking Horse

Treasurer: Mark Hunter, Bentley Jennison

Hon Legal Adviser: Chris Newton

Management Committee Members:

Michael Best, David Newton & Co

Simon Cotton, Cedar Court Hotel

David Fisher, Fishers (Harrogate) Ltd

Fiona Gilbert, Prestige Relocation

Stuart Pearson, The Trinity Foundation

The following Management Committee members are continuing for the balance of their term: Phillip Broadbank, Keith Gaunt, Peter Jesper and Jo Olnier.

MEMBERS' FORUM

White Hart Hotel

We would like to extend our thanks to the White Hart Hotel for providing a complimentary room for the March Chamber Meeting and Business Safari.

Why not try out Hart's Restaurant - either at one of the Chamber's Networking Dinners or for your own private meal. Enquiries to Rebecca Bulley on 01423 505681

New Business Reporter for Ackrills

We were pleased to welcome Katie Moulds to her first meeting as the Business News Reporter for Ackrills. She said she would welcome news of the progress of local businesses - but not just a sales promotion!

Contact Katie by phone on 01423 707509 or by e-mail: katie.moulds@ypn.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS

AJ Promotions (*Personalised gifts/leisurewear*)

Denise Podlewska, Partner

Wetherby Lodge, Turnpike Lane, Bickerton, Wetherby, LS22 5EP

Tel: 01423 359125 **Fax:** 01423 359126

E-mail: AJProm@aol.com

Web site: www.ajpromotions.co.uk

Border Asset Management (*Investment Managers*)

John Paul Thornber, Investment Manager

High Point House, 7 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 1EQ

Tel: 01423 701800 **Fax:** 01423 709800

E-mail: john.thornber@borderam.com

Web site: www.borderam.com

Direct Business Advice Ltd (*Business Advisers*)

Brian Fisher, Commercial Advisor

Franklin House, 4 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 1EL

Tel: 01423 568055

E-mail: brian@directbusinessadvice.co.uk

Web site: www.directbusinessadvice.co.uk

Fewtrees.com (*IT/website/software*)

Robert Smallwood, Director

13 Park Close, Knaresborough, HG5 0BU

Tel: 01423 860258

E-mail: r.smallwood@fewtrees.com

Web site: www.fewtrees.com

Fireserve (*Fire safety services*)

Rod Pallister, Proprietor

23 Almsford Avenue, Harrogate, HG2 8HD

Tel: 01423 815129 **E-mail:** rod@fireserve.co.uk

Web site: www.fireserve.co.uk

Harrogate Training Services (*Training company*)

Jackie Everett, Managing Director

1 Prospect Crescent, Harrogate, HG1 1RH

Tel: 01423 526258 **Fax:** 01423 501400

E-mail: hts1@fsmail.net

Ripley Training Limited (*Training and Development*)

Mike Smith, Managing Director

PO Box 130, Knaresborough, HG5 0NG

Tel: 08708 504232 **Fax:** 08705 804232

E-mail: mike@ripleytraining.co.uk

Web site: www.ripleytraining.co.uk

Rudding Park Estate Ltd

(*Estate & property management*)

Jan Mackaness, Company Secretary

Estate Office, Haggs Farm, Haggs Road, Follifoot, Harrogate, HG3 1EQ

Tel: 01423 844844 **Fax:** 01423 844803

E-mail: jm@rudding.com **Web site:** www.rudding.com

To Catch a Dream Ltd (*Bedroom furnishers*)

Terry Dixon, Managing Director

1-7 Montpellier Walk, The Ginnel, Harrogate, HG1 2RB

Tel: 01423 503060 **Fax:** 01423 528111

E-mail: info@tocatchadream.co.uk

Web site: www.tocatchadream.co.uk

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

October date set for new fire rules

The delayed revision of fire safety rules for non-domestic premises will be introduced on 1 October, according to the ODPM. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order was originally scheduled for introduction on 6 April, but was postponed to give those affected more time to prepare. The Order includes a variety of measures, chief of which is a shift of **responsibility for fire risk assessments** to the property occupant, manager and owner.

More at: www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162115

British Standards advice for web accessibility

The British Standards Institution (BSI) has published a guidance document covering the accessibility of websites for people with disabilities. The move follows a study by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC), which found that 81% of UK websites are inaccessible for **disabled users**. The guidance document covers topics from commissioning and building a website to checking compliance with web accessibility guidelines.

Further details and link to the guidance document at: www.drc.org.uk/newsroom/newsdetails.asp?id=954§ion=1

Sole traders' unnecessary insurance

Many sole traders are unaware that they no longer have to hold employers' liability insurance policies, according to a survey by insurance company More Than reported in the Daily Telegraph. As a result, they may be **wasting £250 every year**. The law, which previously required sole traders who were registered as limited companies to take out this type of insurance, was amended a year ago, potentially lowering costs for more than 300,000 businesses. More details are at: www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?view=DETAILS&grid=M3&xml=/money/2006/02/28/cbins28.xml

DTI survey shows extent of virus problem

A major study of computer crime published by the DTI has revealed that businesses are suffering significant financial losses as a result of virus infection. Despite an overall fall of 66% in the rate of infection over the past two years, the 'Information Breaches' survey found that 50% of serious security breaches in firms were caused by viruses. It also showed that although 95% of firms use some form of virus protection, 35% continue to suffer infections, with **some firms reporting hundreds of attacks every day**.

The survey will be published in full in April - a summary is available at:

www.computerweekly.com/Articles/Article.aspx?liArticleID=214426&liFlavourID=1&ebref=3246

Government DDA guidance for firms

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published a guidance booklet for businesses to explain that compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 may mean only simple adjustments to premises and services. The booklet is part of the DWP's '**Adjusting for Better Business**' campaign, which aims to focus on simple, low-cost adjustments in an effort to make compliance with this law less worrisome for small firms. Download the booklet at: www.dwp.gov.uk/employers/dda/dda_better_business_pack.pdf

Putting the spotlight on late payers

Three business organisations have come together to offer small firms a free online tool that provides information about the **payment records of large customers**. Public limited companies are obliged to provide information about the length of time they take to pay after receipt of an invoice.

The FSB, the Credit Management Research Centre and the Better Payment Practice Group (BPPG) have created a database to help small firms and put the spotlight on late payers.

The FSB has more details at: www.fsb.co.uk/news.asp?REC=3118

The 'PaymentScorer' database is available for registered users online at: www.paymentscorer.com

VAT tips for e-commerce firms

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published a series of tips to help small businesses that trade online ensure that they are complying with VAT requirements. The tips focus on finding a relevant VAT scheme, the rules for trading on auction sites, and how to calculate the **VAT due on website income**.

The tips are available at: www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=188974&NewsAreaID=2

Free workplace health advice service

A confidential new advisory service has been launched to help small businesses get practical information about workplace health. '**Workplace Health Connect**' is a free service that will offer advice and solutions for cutting workplace ill-health and injuries, which cost the UK economy 40 million working days in 2005. The service is open to firms in England and Wales via an advice line (0845 609 6006).

More details at: www.workplacehealthconnect.co.uk

The HSE has also launched a new site designed to encourage worker involvement in health and safety, available at: www.hse.gov.uk/involvement

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