



REVIEW

May
2007

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

FUTURE MEETINGS

17.30 for
18.00 start

11 June

9 July

13 August
Safari

10 September

8 October

12 November

10 December
Safari

LEEDS CITY REGION or NORTH YORKSHIRE

- Leeds City Director explains the history, objectives and prospects for the Region
- Leeds Chamber Director emphasises the need for coordinated action plans
- Harrogate's Head of Economic Development highlights the opportunities for us
- Members question plans for a Leeds Arena; Transport Links; Tourism support
- Is there a choice - partnership with Leeds City Region - or a County takeover?

CHAMBER AGM NEWS

- John Hart hands over Presidency to Granville Simpson of The Rocking Horse
- Martin Wilks, Robert Whiteley & Stuart Pearson elected as Vice-Presidents
- Sharon Phillips, David Horth & Graham Strugnell newly elected on to Committee
- Brian Haines presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for 4 years service
- Business Market success leads to proposed Yorkshire Business Market 2008

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & NEWS

- Chamber Connect Card - corporate discounts from affiliation to Leeds Chamber
- Leeds Legal Helpline & Document Service - optional extra for just £15 per year
- Business News invited by Ackrills for Harrogate Advertiser Business Pages
- Business Entrepreneur Awards for York & North Yorkshire - closes 8th June
- Ten Business Briefings contain links to valuable FREE advice and publications

Future Meetings

Monday 11th June - Establishing and Growing a New Business

at Kimberley Hotel, Kings Road, Harrogate HG1 5JY - 17.30 for 18.00 until 20.00
Presentations by winner of Ackrill's Small Business Award 2006, **So...PR Limited**,
+ **Business Link** Case Studies + Harrogate Council EDU new **Property Register**
+ latest news on local Business Centre developments from Chamber members

Monday 9th July - Staff Training Opportunities & Funding

at Grants Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate HG1 2SS - 17.30 for 18.00 until 20.00
Presentations on "Train to Gain" by the Learning & Skills Council + Harrogate College
Business Enterprises + latest news on Training Programmes from Chamber members

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

LEEDS CITY REGION & Harrogate?

Jean Dent, Director of City Development at Leeds City Council and Ian Williams, Executive Director - Policy at Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry gave a comprehensive presentation on the vision for the Leeds City Region, covering the following key points.

- City Region secures “added value”
- Partnership History
- Governance for a growth agenda
- Growth scenarios
- Maximising our economic drivers
- Addressing underlying inhibitors
- Transport vision - bus, rail, road, air
- Skills and Labour Market
- Housing and Sustainable Communities
- Business Infrastructure and Support
- Manchester and Sheffield
- Next steps
- What does this mean for Business?

As these topics are so important for the future of business in the City Region, we have reprinted the full set of slides that were used in this presentation and a copy is inserted in each copy of this REVIEW.

Harrogate Borough Council's view

Nigel Avison, Head of Property & Economic Development at Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) said that HBC were willing participants, working in partnership with Leeds and other Councils. In answer to the question, “Do we want to be part of Leeds City Region?” Nigel said, “we are part of it whether we like it or not. It will create opportunities and problems.” Amongst the opportunities is the major growth in Harrogate of two sectors - the finance and business services sector and digital services sector. Closer connections with Leeds will help these sectors to thrive.

Nigel emphasised the need for improved transport and connectivity between Harrogate, Leeds and the surrounding areas for potential employees and we need to work collaboratively to make any progress with this. The proposed extension of the Metro Card in January 2008 should be the first step towards this.

QUESTION TIME

Robert Whiteley of Pavilions of Harrogate asked what position Leeds Chamber and Leeds City Council took in terms of the proposed new Conference Centre for Leeds.

Jean Dent replied that the business community in Leeds had made it very clear that a larger venue is needed to attract bigger conferences that demand a city location away from cities like Manchester and Birmingham.

The marketing for an opportunity to build an arena in Leeds will commence around September 2007 and bidders can include within their proposals conference

and exhibition facilities, but it will be required to be complementary to the existing facilities within the region. The importance of the conference and leisure market in Harrogate is recognised, but a different area of the conference market has been identified.

It is hoped to include better transport links between Leeds and Harrogate so the town itself and bed space in hotels will mean Harrogate could also benefit from the proposals. Jean also said that Leeds City Council would work with Harrogate Borough Council to ensure the final offer is of benefit to the region.

Ian Williams added that he knew of potential large conferences which, if they cannot come to Leeds, will not stay in this region, so potential business for the region is being lost.

Brian Haines of Esource Group Ltd asked if there were plans to reinstate flights from Leeds Bradford Airport to London City or Gatwick airports. He also expressed concern about access to Leeds by road, particularly from the M1 south.

Ian Williams said the recent sale of Leeds Bradford Airport would result in substantial investment of £70 billion from the new owners. Some will go towards additional services, but getting appropriate slots into both London City and Gatwick will be difficult. However, he is optimistic that the new owners' commitment means exciting times are ahead for the Airport.

Jean Dent added with reference to the road links and other access into Leeds, that the proposed concept of a Tram/Train and further electrification of the line between Leeds and York would reduce the amount of commuter traffic and relieve congestion on the roads.

However, the biggest challenge is how the City Region will deal with congestion in the future; some solutions will be long term.

Jack Transport of Dransfield Novelties asked if Leeds would be considering Congestion Charges.

Jean Dent replied that Leeds has a City Region Transport Group currently reviewing how they are going to deal with the congestion issue and what it means for the economy, but Leeds City Council have not committed itself in any way to congestion charging. In the longer term the growing increase in traffic into the city cannot be sustained and solutions are being sought.

Elaine Speight of Harewood House said there had been little mention of the tourists visiting Harrogate, Leeds and York and asked what was happening to increase tourism and which City Region Panel would be looking to do this.

Jean Dent said there had been a growth in business and leisure tourism in recent years, which brings problems as well as real benefits. Future development would involve a series of “products” that can be used to market the region to the world, not just the UK.

Collaboration is again important and we need to work with Yorkshire Forward and the Yorkshire Tourist Board to achieve this. The City Region Economic Development Department would be driving this initiative.

CITY REGION vs. UNITARY COUNTY

Brian Dunsby, Chief Executive, played devil's advocate by asking if Harrogate Businesses really wanted to be taken over by Leeds or would they prefer to be taken over by Northallerton?

This is a very serious question to be considered now that North Yorkshire County Council have put a bid to the Government to dismantle the District Council structure and shut down Harrogate, Craven, Hambleton, Richmond, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby Councils and to manage the whole of the county of North Yorkshire out of Northallerton. If this was achieved, how much interest would they have in Leeds City Region? Brian asked Jean how she perceived **Leeds' relationship with the rest of North Yorkshire**, as distinct from their relationship with Harrogate and York.

Jean Dent said Leeds' relationship with North Yorkshire is currently as the **transport authority**, not because they are within the economic activities of the City Region. It is a challenging issue, as it is for Harrogate, because if a Unitary Authority is created it will be critical for the continued success of the Leeds City Region to have the sort of relationship that we very fortunately already have with Harrogate and York where there is an understanding about the importance of the **collective endeavour** in terms of promoting the City Region for the future. Of course that sort of agenda has different sections, because North Yorkshire has a substantial rural hinterland with different issues from those issues that pertain within the Leeds City Region.

Nigel Avison added that he did not think Harrogate Borough Council had said it was a takeover by Leeds.

Brian Dunsby agreed, and said that was what he had wanted clarified so members can see the difference between these options. Leeds City Region is not a takeover, it is a **partnership**. The Leader of Harrogate Borough Council, Dr Mike Gardner, is on the City Region Leaders Board and a member of their Transport Committee. We are at the heart of the operation as **equal partners**; it is one Council one vote, not a per capita vote.

Brian said he thought we were in a very strong position in the Leeds City Region. He made this point because a copy of articles in the press and a report from the District Councils commenting on the bid from North Yorkshire were distributed at the meeting. **You are now better informed as to the options for the future.** The address to which you can express your views for or against the Unitary Bid is at the bottom of the next column. It is absolutely vital that every member writes!

Nigel Avison emphasised that people are not being asked to choose between a **Unitary** that is organised on a North Yorkshire basis and a Unitary that is being organised on a Leeds City Region basis. What has happened with the Leeds City Region over the last two years is proof that you do not need a Unitary to collaborate effectively.

The choice you therefore have, as far as the Local Government Review is concerned, is a Unitary North

Yorkshire Council providing all functions across North Yorkshire, or retention of the status quo, in other words two tier working, but **enhanced two tier working**, with more effective collaboration between the County and Districts around issues like waste collection and all the other things that local authorities deal with.

Nigel Avison went on to explain that the relevance to this particular discussion is to try and ask yourself, would a Unitary Council be as effective in collaborating around a City Region Agenda? The question for you to determine is the agenda that a Unitary County will have to deal with. Is it going to find it easy to collaborate around **transport priorities** if it is simultaneously trying to address City Region connectivity issues while it is also trying to address rural accessibility issues?

Will it be able and willing to invest in the sort of things that will help Harrogate play its role in the City Region? Things like enhancements to the **Conference Centre** where it has got competing priorities over North Yorkshire. Those are the real issues, when you start to think about what the implications are of the alternative local government structures that you are being offered.

Stuart Pearson of The Trinity Foundation said it sounds as if we have got a choice, but it seemed that it is a railroading operation and almost immaterial what we think or how we protest. We had already been told "*it will never go through*". All we can do now is register our disapproval and **we should ask everyone to protest**.

Nigel Avison said he believed it was in the balance at the moment. The government originally said it was "minded to support" only 8 bids for Unitary Status. It has dropped the use of that phrase in allowing 16 bids to go forward. Some of those 16 bids are mutually exclusive in that they are competing bids for the same geographical area, like Cheshire, where there are two alternative models that have been allowed to go forward.

Effectively, all one can read into the bids that have been allowed to go to this next stage is that they offer whole county solutions for respective areas. Clearly the North Yorkshire Unitary Bid meets that criterion, if no others.

There is a **consultation** going on at the moment, but it is not a public referendum. Nigel urged as many as possible to write expressing their views - whatever those views are - so when the Government sits down it has a genuine understanding of what the business community in this area feels about the prospects of the change that is suggested or has been offered by the County Council.

Brian Dunsby reiterated the importance of all members studying the options and expressing their views before the deadline of 22nd June. The full consultation paper is available on this web site: www.communities.gov.uk

The address to which you should write is as follows:

Unitary Structures Consultation Team, Zone 5/E8,
Elland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.

Or e-mail to: structures@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Please send a copy of your letter to the Chamber Secretariat so that we can summarise the view of our members in the Chamber's Submission to the Minister, Phil Woolas MP.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Outgoing President's Report

John Hart said it had been a great honour for him to be President for the last year and he thanked all members of the Management Committee, the Chief Executive and his hard working team, Beryl, Maggie & Chris, and Past President, Brian Haines, for their support and patience.

At his inaugural report last year, John's mantra was "more of the same". He believed the Chamber has delivered, with the evidence being the efforts to raise the profile of the Chamber through the **Business Market**, which over the past three years has evolved from good in the first year to better in the second and now excellent in this third year. Pressure from members suggests we **need to expand** and the Management Committee will be looking at ways to do so which are complementary both to members' wishes and sympathetic to the needs of Harrogate and the District as a whole.

John's outgoing message is that the Chamber is only successful on the basis of the contribution made by you, its members. All of you are extremely busy with your own ventures and businesses, but if you can consider how you might squeeze an extra hour in 24 to contribute in any way to the workings of the Chamber by **offering your services** to the Management Committee or one of the Focus Groups, you will be most welcome.

That lead John into highlighting in particular recognition to Granville Simpson, who has done sterling work through the **Town Centre Focus Group** in getting the Harrogate signage plan for the town implemented, albeit somewhat more slowly than we would have hoped, but it is under way. It will, therefore, be a great pleasure to hand over next year's Presidency to Granville.

Secretariat's Report

Highlighting the key issues, Brian Dunsby, Chief Executive quoted past President Brian Haines' vision of the Chamber being "**The Number One Voice for Harrogate Business**". The last year demonstrated that is now the case; there is no other voice for Harrogate Business and we made it heard loud and clear.

The only negative to be reported is the resignation of the Chamber's Past President and Chief Executive from the **Harrogate District Strategic Partnership**, due to our continued frustration at their lack of support for economy and enterprise issues. This formal joint resignation brought the matter to the forefront, which may hopefully stimulate action to rectify the situation in future.

The Chamber actively participated in **Ackrill Media Group's Business Awards**, with Brian Haines again one of the judges for the Best Small Business Award, which was won by So...PR Ltd, who will be the main speakers at the 11th June meeting. Our thanks are sent to Ackrill Media Group's Editor, Jean MacQuarrie and Business Reporter, Katie Oxtoby, for superb coverage via Business Pink and On Location throughout the year.

At the heart of Harrogate Chamber's communication are the **monthly meetings**, with attendance at meetings averaging over 50 with a record high of 70 at the "How to make an exhibition of yourself" meeting in March.

Content of the meetings has evolved with keynote speakers on topical issues for the first part of most meetings. On occasions this has restricted the **time for discussion**, so we will review the agendas and timings of meetings to facilitate more participation from the floor.

Your feedback on what you want to hear at meetings is important - send to info@harrogatechamber.org.

Social activities have been less popular over the past year, with Chamber Networking Dinners gradually decreasing in numbers, which resulted in them not being continued in 2007. However, the **special offer** of free wine by Pavilions of Harrogate to Chamber Members booking places at their **Christmas Party** has meant this event is now supported by increasing numbers, with the offer to be repeated for Christmas 2007.

Harrogate Chamber now acts as Secretariat for the regular meetings of **Harrogate District Chambers** with Harrogate Borough Council, which facilitates closer relationships with Council Officers and other Chambers.

Focus Group activity has continued with a new group on **Business Waste Disposal** being formed and the Business Development group evolving into a new **Business Promotion** Group, led by Stuart Pearson. Members interested in joining or making suggestions to any of the Focus Groups should contact the Secretariat.

The **Promoting Harrogate** Focus Group, led by Martin Wilks is slowly gaining collaboration with the marketing teams at Harrogate International Centre and moving forward with a new Tourism Forum. Martin also represents us on the new **Christmas Lights** Committee, to which Harrogate Chamber are making a donation. (*A new appeal for Christmas Lights Sponsors is enclosed - for full details call Angela Humphreys - 07932 046677.*)

President-elect, Granville Simpson, has done a good job working towards better signage in the **Town Centre** Focus Group. Brian Dunsby has kept lobbying for the **Traffic & Transport** Group, with encouraging results on our bus, rail and air services, but no progress on roads!

Following the report in February REVIEW of Harrogate Borough Council Leader, Mike Gardner's comments about the **Unitary Bid** made by North Yorkshire County Council, the Chief Executive of NYCC contacted The Chamber to ask why they were not also invited to speak at that meeting. An invitation to do so was extended resulting in a lunch with Chamber Officers on 31st May.

To conclude, Brian thanked John Hart for his strong support and guidance throughout the year. Thanks also to the Chamber Management Group and Perlex Team.

A full copy of the Secretariat's Report is enclosed with this REVIEW. **Comments and suggestions welcome.**

Treasurer's Report

Chamber Treasurer, Mark Hunter, now at Saffery Champness, reported briefly that on the back of income of £24,182 for the year, the net surplus for the year is £5,145, which is a good increase on the year before and backs up the strength of the Chamber and its growth in activities. The Balance Sheet shows that the Chamber now has net assets of just over £32,000.

Copies of the 2006/07 Accounts are available to members only - on request from the Secretariat

Election of Officers for 2007-08

The following officers were duly elected for the 2007-08:

President: Granville Simpson, The Rocking Horse

Past President: John Hart, Transpen

Hon Treasurer: Mark Hunter, Saffery Champness

Hon Legal Adviser: Chris Newton, Berwins Solicitors

Hon Sec. /Chief Exec: Brian Dunsby, Perlex Associates

Administrator: Maggie Hall, Perlex Associates

Management Committee Members:

Michael Best, David Newton Accountants

Philip Broadbank, Enid Taylor

Simon Cotton, Cedar Court Hotel

David Fisher, Fishers (Harrogate) Ltd

Fiona Gilbert, Prestige Relocation

David Horth, Victoria Shopping Centre *

Peter Jesper, The Jespers OFFICE

Sharon Phillips, Brook Street (UK) Ltd *

Graham Strugnell, Struggytax *

*The following three are new to the Management Group:

David Horth, Victoria Shopping Centre

David is Manager at Victoria Shopping Centre and is responsible for the daily running of the Centre, that is, everything from security and cleaning to marketing, community involvement and environmental issues.

Tel: 01423 569550 Fax: 01423 504210

Sharon Phillips, Brook Street (UK) Ltd

Sharon has worked for Brook Street (UK) Ltd for over 15 years. Following the successful launch of the Harrogate branch in 2004, Sharon is currently Project Manager on a national project coaching and developing Managers and Consultants. Tel: 01423 701065 M: 07793 267185

Graham Strugnell, Struggytax Wealth Management

Graham is Proprietor of Struggytax Wealth Management. He explains: what's in a name? Struggy: short for Strugnell. Tax: all of my personal and corporate clients are keen to save it, or avoid it. Wealth: needs to be accumulated and/or protected. Management, everyone's financial affairs require to be kept under constant review, taking into account the changes which occur over time. I'm busy, but never too busy to listen and help. Tel. 07711 886894.

Retiring Officers:

Brian Haines, Esource Group - having served four years as Vice President, President and Past President

Keith Gaunt, NatWest - 3 years on Management Group

Jo Olnier, Graphic Design - 2 years on Managmt. Group

Thanks were expressed to the three retiring officers, and a special Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Brian Haines for his loyal and capable service to Harrogate Chamber over the past four years.

New President's Induction

New President, Granville Simpson, was inducted as the President of Harrogate Chamber for 2007-08.

Granville currently owns and runs specialist traditional toy shop, The Rocking Horse, in the centre of Harrogate. He has over four decades of experience working within the UK retail sector with senior buyer positions at ASDA, Debenhams and Harvey Nichols of Knightsbridge.

Granville said it was a great privilege to be given the opportunity to represent Harrogate Chamber and its members at the 111th Annual General Meeting.

He said there were a number of **key issues** facing us over the coming year such as: **Unitary Authority** - what are the implications for Harrogate? **Leeds City Region** - how active and what level of involvement? **Business Market** - what next?

With so many topics for us to debate and conclude upon, we need as much member participation and lively input in our meetings as possible. Such interaction can only serve to strengthen the Chamber as a whole.

Granville asked members who have an idea, or a particular point that they would like to be explored, but would prefer not to stand up and speak about it at a meeting, that they could approach any one of the Management Group who come from a diverse range of companies, one of which may best represent your area of business. **Granville said it was hoped that members would participate more fully in the interactive parts of future meetings to ensure topics YOU feel are important are highlighted.**

In conclusion, Granville said an area of common interest all members could unite behind whatever your business: **"How best can we enhance Harrogate's image as the place to holiday in and the place to do business in?"**

Replies please to president@harrogatechamber.org

HARROGATE DISTRICT BUSINESS MARKET 2007

The 3rd Business Market on 30th April at Pavilions of Harrogate proved a great success with over 100 exhibitors and visitors from all around Yorkshire as well as Harrogate District, making for a busy and rewarding day for all concerned. (See the Exhibitors list enclosed.)

A report, series of photographs and quotations from attendees has been uploaded to the Chamber website www.harrogatechamber.org including pictures of the winners of the Best Stand Awards:

Best Large Stand: Harrogate International Centre

Best Medium Stand: The Trinity Foundation

Best Small Stand: Crown Hotel Harrogate

Each winner was presented with a specially decorated cake made by Betty's & Taylor's of Harrogate.

Brian Dunsby asked members how they wanted the event to grow in the future. As many exhibitors have asked for more space next year, there is an option to either reduce the number of exhibitors, or expand to fill all four event rooms at Pavilions of Harrogate. These options are to be discussed by the Management Group, but any suggestions from members would be welcomed to take into consideration.

Stuart Pearson suggested the event could be a "Yorkshire" event with the backing of some larger organisations to attract more visitors. Those members present agreed.

Put the date in your diary for next year's Business Market, which is Monday, 28th April 2008.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

CHAMBER CONNECT Card - activation

With your new Harrogate Chamber Membership window sticker for the 2007/08 year, you should receive a new CHAMBER CONNECT Card, which is provided as a result of our affiliation to Leeds Chamber of Commerce.

This card brings a range of benefits to your business offering discounts in Fuel, National Hotels, Stationery supplies, IT equipment, Office Furniture, Office Solutions and other benefits that Leeds Chamber are developing during the year. See www.leedschamber.co.uk and click on the CHAMBER CONNECT link for more information and offers now available to Harrogate Chamber members. Quote our Leeds Membership Number 701745 for activation of the CONNECT cards.

Change to Leeds Chamber Legal Helpline

As of 1st April 2007 the 24/7 legal helpline facility offered to Harrogate Chamber members via our Affiliate membership of Leeds Chamber is being provided by a local supplier, Sentient. The new service gives members access to just about every HR and H & S document a business needs, downloadable and customisable. In addition there is a helpline manned by HR and legal professionals to answer questions about not only the documents but all business legal issues.

To access Leeds Chamber's business support package, a supplementary charge of £15 is payable. To get your log-in code, contact Mark Goldstone at Leeds Chamber on 0113 247 0000 - e-mail markg@leedschamber.co.uk

MEMBERS' FORUM & NEWS

Two new Directors for Jespers

The Jespers OFFICE (F.B. Jesper & Son (Commercial) Ltd), have recently announced the appointment of two new directors - Tim Milnes (Sales) and Michael Mazza (Finance) join Darren Adamson (Operations) and Peter Jesper (Managing) on the board of one of Yorkshire's longest established independent companies.

Peter Jesper (Managing Director) commented *"These are very exciting times for our company and the appointment of Tim and Mick to the board adds real depth to our team, allowing us to create a stronger company structure that is set to benefit our customers, both locally and nationally."*

"We believe that our key strengths, based on personal service, quality product and rapid response, allow us to deliver value way above the perceived package on offer from the national contract suppliers and our track record with over 2,500 regular business customers is testimony to this ethos".

Jespers has come a long way since being established in 1901 as a firm of hand engravers and now boasts a business interiors division as well as exclusively distributing the 'Advantia' brand of top value office supplies to their customer base on a next day basis nationwide. Tel: 01423 877932 Fax: 01423 877946.

Business News Invitation

In the Secretariat's Report we thanked Ackrills Media Group for excellent coverage in Harrogate Advertiser of our Business Market, AGM, Letters and other activities.

Their Business Editor Katie Oxtoby says she would welcome current business news from any Chamber Members for inclusion on the Harrogate Advertiser Business Page or in Business Pink which is inserted in the whole group of Ackrills Newspapers across the whole of Harrogate District - with a total readership around 110,000. Her direct phone is 01423 707509 and her e-mail address is: Katie.Oxtoby@ypn.co.uk

Twelve ways to reduce costs

Chamber member, **Simple Quality Solutions** is giving a FREE seminar on June 18th (12 till 2) at Leeds Chamber of Commerce (supported by Business Link). The subject of the Seminar is *"Twelve ways to Reduce Costs"*. Tickets are free but need to be booked.

For details see: <http://www.leedschamber.co.uk> - follow the link to events and the Business Planning section.

Printing.com franchise for Harrogate.

The marketing and design agency, loyaltyMATTERS has just taken the Printing.com franchise for Harrogate, based at Evans Business Centre. loyaltyMATTERS is an expanding agency that provides web design, email marketing, graphic design and a newsletter production service for clients both locally and across the UK. *"We're delighted to partner with Printing.com"*, says Managing Director, Carolyn Saddington, *"We can now offer our clients great quality, full colour print at highly competitive prices."*

Contact Carolyn Saddington on 0845 838 2240 or e-mail: printing.com@loyaltymatters.co.uk.

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

CCTV Annual Review

Granville Simpson attended the annual review of the CCTV activities in relation to their performance in Harrogate and other towns in the locality.

The Council has introduced a digital recording system which will allow the operators to quickly review on camera incidents. The Courts will be provided with updated equipment to show incidents in support of a prosecution.

Street Pastors through the Outreach team (Salvation Army & others) have been operating in the town centre at weekends in the evenings. Their role of talking to revellers in an informal non authoritarian way has often helped quell what could easily develop into physical incidents. This all helps to make Harrogate Town Centre a safer place for every one.

Further use is to be made of the improved equipment for the automatic number plate recognition system. This is when a known or suspected stolen vehicle passes one of these cameras the police can be alerted and action taken as appropriate.

Best Business Entrepreneur Award

Have you got what it takes to be crowned 'Best Business Entrepreneur'? Are you a rising business star aged under 30? Or perhaps you know someone who has inspired others to achieve their entrepreneurial potential? If so, Business Link York and North Yorkshire is giving you a chance to shine.

Business Link is calling for nominations in three categories - 'Best Business Entrepreneur', 'Best Young Entrepreneur under 30' and a special award for 'Entrepreneurial Spirit', which will recognise outstanding contribution to developing enterprise in North Yorkshire.

For this award, this could be someone who is active in the business community, in business support, education, charity or local government, someone you think deserves to be recognised for inspiring and supporting people to fulfil their entrepreneurial potential.

Full details and entry forms can be downloaded at www.here4business.co.uk/awards. Closing date 8th June.

Proposed Closure of HM Customs Office

Following our written objection to the threat to close the HM Customs Office in Harrogate, a reply from HM Revenue & Customs in London has promised a thorough review and said no office will be closed until an assessment has been carried out. They say they are committed to maintaining enquiry centre services in all localities where they are currently offered.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Tier 1 Community & Policing Group

Robert Whiteley of Pavilions of Harrogate has recently taken over from Past-President Barbara Coultas as the Chamber's representative on the Tier 1 Community & Policing Group, which provides a consultation vehicle for the Police with the Town Council's Community Safety Group, business and neighbourhood watch interests. If you have any safety or security concerns, please contact Robert on 01423 544544...

Granville Simpson has queried with the CAP Group the substantial sign outside WH Smiths and whether its use as a police statistical reporting site was such a good idea. He thought Town Halls, Libraries & Police Stations would be more appropriate to avoid negative vibes being given to visitors. He can think of better uses for the present sign location to benefit of residents and visitors.

Any views to president@harrogatechamber.org

Thanks to Hotel du Vin

Many thanks to General Manager, Nick Lawson and the staff at Hotel du Vin for hosting the AGM and providing refreshments al fresco in the courtyard - luckily the rain just managed to hold off. We also had the additional treat of seeing the winning 1966 World Cup squad who were holding their annual reunion at Hotel du Vin!

To contact Hotel du Vin ring 01423 856800 or e-mail info@harrogate.hotelduvin.com

NEW MEMBERS

Auditel (Cost management consultancy)

Ian Bergel, Manager
9 Hillside Road, Pannal, Harrogate, HG3 1JP
Tel: 01423 810168 **Fax:** 01423 810168
E-mail: ian.bergel@auditel.net
Web site: www.auditel.eu.com

Fineprint (Printers & Designers)

Kevin Fulcher, Managing Director
The Depot, Claro Road, Harrogate, HG1 4AT
Tel: 01423 523836 **Fax:** 01423 561818
E-mail: kevinMD@fineprint.uk.com
Web site: www.fineprint.uk.com

Horsforth Heating (Heating and Plumbing)

Alan Calvert-Brown, Commercial Manager
Unit 1, 2 Freeman's Way, Harrogate, HG3 1DH
Tel: 01423 504344 **Fax:** -
E-mail: info@horsforthheating.co.uk
Web site: www.horsforthheating.co.uk

Kings Catering Company Ltd (Caterer)

Ian King, Managing Director
Southlands, Knox Park, Killinghall, Harrogate, HG3 2AF
Tel: 01423 526401 **Fax:** 01423 505168
E-mail: kingscateringcompany@btinternet.com
Web site: no website

Lynda Moss Flowers (Special Event Florists)

Lynda Moss, Owner/Manager
Studio 4c, Follifoot Ridge Business Park, Pannal Road, Harrogate, HG3 1DP
Tel: 01423 874600 **Fax:** 01423 874605
E-mail: lynda@lyndamossflowers.co.uk
Web site: www.lyndamossflowers.co.uk

Wetherby Computer Centre Ltd (Computer Retail)

Janice Fallon, Director
Unit 7, Sandbeck Park, Sandbeck Lane, Wetherby, LS22 7TW
Tel: 01937 584136 **Fax:** 01937 584222
E-mail: janice@wetherbycomputercentre.co.uk
Web site: www.wetherbycomputercentre.co.uk

Wish Agency Ltd (Marketing agency)

Cathryn Hemsley, Account Director
Old School House, Hunsingore, Wetherby, LS22 5HY
Tel: 01423 359659 **Fax:** 01423 359284
E-mail: cathryn@wish-agency.co.uk
Web site: www.wish-agency.co.uk

YE Magazine (B2B publication)

Ben Johnson, Features Writer
The Business Development Centre, Eanam Wharf, Blackburn, BB1 5BL
Tel: 01254 503853 **Fax:** 07043 018743
E-mail: b.johnson@ye-mag.co.uk
Web site: www.ye-mag.co.uk

Your Move Firth Hamilton (Estate Agents)

Mark Firth, Director
18-22 Albert Street, Harrogate, HG1 1JT
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BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

Business owners face prison over illegal staff

Business owners who knowingly employ people who are in the UK illegally could soon face a prison sentence or an unlimited fine, the Home Office has announced. The new measures, which will come into force next year, will also include civil penalties for business which have been negligent in checking staff. The measures are part of the Illegal Working Action Plan, which is part of a wider initiative to tackle illegal immigration consequences.

See: www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=284490&NewsAreaID=2

Tax rules relaxed for self-employed home workers

The tax rules for self-employed home workers are being relaxed by HM Revenue & Customs. Since 6 April, self-employed people who work from home on a limited basis, as well as full-time home workers making a claim for the 2006/07 tax year do not have to provide records of every business expense when they make a tax claim. Self-employed home workers are also allowed to reclaim tax on part of their domestic bills for business purposes.

See: www.manufacturingnetwork.org/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_286899

See HMRC's guidance at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/bimmanual/bim47815.htm

Work from home 'savings calculator'

An online tool for employers and employees to work out how much money they could save by working from home is available at www.enterprisenation.com (scroll down to bottom right hand corner.) It calculates the amount spent commuting - both in time and money. The user supplies information on how far it is to their office, what sort of transport is used and how many hours per week are spent commuting.

Own-it IP Protection website

This is an online resource for small creative businesses and freelancers to find out more about protecting their intellectual property (IP). It contains free legal contract templates, fact sheets, pod casts and articles, as well as legal advice and FAQ sections. The site is collaboration between Creative London, the London College of Communication and the University of the Arts London. See: www.own-it.org

Investors and entrepreneurs link-up service

An online service linking UK business angels with entrepreneurs seeking investment is being launched this week. Angels Den will be the first fully national online business angels matching service. It will focus on deals with a value of up to £500,000. Business owners in

search of investment will be able to upload a summary of their business idea and plan for £99, and their application will then be reviewed by an external analyst, who will offer constructive feedback. The service is live from 1 May 2007. More information at:

www.angelsden.co.uk/Applicants/ApplicantHomePage.aspx

Guidance to protect small firms' IP

Small businesses are missing out on potential income because they do not know enough about intellectual property (IP) issues, according to a study by the UK Intellectual Property Office. It is attempting to rectify the situation by publishing two new information booklets and an e-newsletter, which aim to help smaller enterprises protect their ideas. See: www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=280659&NewsAreaID=2&print=true

Data Protection Warning

Businesses are being warned about the potential 'data protection crisis' which will affect the way paper files are stored. The Transitional Relief exemption applying to paper-based files created before the Data Protection Act 1998 comes to an end in October. Businesses will then be bound by stricter demands on keeping records of who has access to clients' information. Accountancy group KPMG says it fears businesses have not grasped the scale of the problem they are likely to face.

See: www.kpmg.co.uk/news/detail.cfm?pr=2864

Free guide to telephone recorders

A website and booklet covering the recording of customer phone calls has been put together to help businesses confused by the issue. The Telephone Recorders website includes frequently asked questions, legal issues and myths surrounding the use of telephone recording equipment. To request a free hardcopy of the booklet see: www.phone-recorders.info

Waste Disposal Website & Directory

A useful website has been launched where you can locate routes for effective disposal, collection and recycling of business waste. Already a glass collection company has been found who will collect glass from pubs, restaurants, etc. for as little as £1.25 a week.

See: www.environment-agency.gov.uk If you have a waste problem, ask the Secretariat for the Chambers Action Plan on Business Waste Disposal and Recycling

E-Commerce Times

A US website packed with useful information for UK audiences on all aspects of online marketing, with a small business section including articles and reports looking at technology and e-marketing from a small enterprise perspective. There are also sections on IT security, plus Viewpoint and Entertainment categories. See: www.ecommercetimes.com

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