

HDC

HARROGATE DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business Review

Promoting Harrogate business —The latest news from your chamber

February 2017

An Ageing Population: Challenges and Opportunities for Businesses

Our February meeting looked at the way an ageing population affects business life. From adapting what we do to an older audience, to taking on staff near or beyond pension age, there was plenty to discuss.

Judith Wardell and Jane Barber from Kingswood Age Confidence shared some interesting statistics about how the UK's population has already changed, and will continue to do so over the coming years. They emphasised that businesses need to find ways to adapt for the older generation—and that means message, method and much more.

Graham Strugnell of Struggytax Wealth Management then impressed upon the audience the importance of planning ahead. It's easy to put off thinking about future finances, but there will never be a 'right time' to prepare. When it comes to saving for the future, the sooner you start, the better. Business owners are often too caught up in day-

to-day needs to put money aside or plan for passing on the business. Speak to an IFA to get the right advice and ensure you have everything in place for a long and happy retirement—with the money you need to live the life you want.

Finally, Debra Forsythe-Conroy from Harrogate College spoke about training for older people and changing to a new career later in life. As the retirement age increases, people are looking for new opportunities at an older age. This might mean adding new skills through a training course to add to their experience, or it might mean a complete change of direction.

There are also opportunities for employers, as older staff bring with them additional skills and experience such as cooperation, communication and more. Forward-thinking companies can also engage with Harrogate College to train existing staff, benefiting both the business and the employee.

March meeting: Tour de Yorkshire

The biggest event coming to Harrogate this year is set to be the Tour de Yorkshire. This presents challenges and opportunities for local businesses. Our March meeting will see tourism leaders including Sir Gary Verity come together to talk about how businesses can engage with the Tour de Yorkshire to make it beneficial to them. We will also look at other tourism events and topics during the meeting.

It takes place at Ridding Park on Monday 13th March. Members and first-time guests are welcome to attend for free, so please do invite a business contact who may find this topic useful. Book your place via our website.



Crowds enjoying the 2016 Tour de Yorkshire.
Picture: Welcome to Yorkshire/SWPix.com.

Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce

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Business News

A cleaner Vision for Harrogate

Transdev (Harrogate Bus Company) has secured Government funding worth £2.25 million. It will fund new buses – powered by 'next negation' opportunity charging technology – and will revolutionise travel as Harrogate becomes the first town in the UK to use the system and make Harrogate a low emission bus town.

Y17 Welcome to Yorkshire on Show

York Theatre Royal has been unveiled as the host of Welcome to Yorkshire's annual Y17 conference, following its multi-million-pound revamp. The UK's largest annual tourism conference will take centre stage on Tuesday 21st March. The 1,000-strong audience will hear about exciting, new campaigns, initiatives and projects that continue to showcase Yorkshire to the world. <http://industry.yorkshire.com/industry-events/y17>

Yorkshire Business Market

Don't forget to book your stand at this ever-popular event at the Pavilions of Harrogate on Monday 24th April. This is the 13th year and will be opened this year by Roger Marsh OBE, Chair of Leeds City Region. It will focus on new and start-up businesses, supporting their needs with affordable micro-stands and a programme of short seminars throughout the day, designed to give an immediate take-away for any business. Stands are filling up quickly so book yours now, or register to attend free. www.yorkshirebusinessmarket.org

Tour de Yorkshire

This very popular event will be in Harrogate on Saturday 29th April. Both the Women's and Men's races of the Tour de Yorkshire will be racing to Harrogate as the town reprises its successful Tour de France role, as the big finish host of the day. For up to date information look at www.Harrogate.gov.uk or www.VisitHarrogate.co.uk, If any members would like to have a space in the Fan Park please contact John McGivern who is the council officer in charge of this event—john.mcgivern@harrogate.gov.uk. Our March meeting will cover the ways in which businesses can engage with the Tour de Yorkshire—see page 1 for details.

Chamber News

Congratulations to...

Mark Deere of SME Leaders, who has decided to retire as life is too short! He is currently enjoying the Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Paul Rawlinson and the team at Norse, who have successfully raised their Kickstarter target of £20,000 to move to a new venue on Swan Road. The campaign is still running if you want to back it and bag a reward: www.kickstarter.com/projects/385567835/move-norse-restaurant-to-a-new-home-in-harrogate

Business and Tourism Awards

Two major awards schemes are now open for entries.

The Harrogate Advertiser Business Awards have been launched for 2017 and entries are invited across several categories including: Best rural business, tourism award, best employer, family-run business and best website.

Harrogate District Chamber sponsors the Best Small Company category, for businesses with up to 10 employees which have been trading for at least three years. Please do enter, or encourage your contacts to do so.

You can also nominate individuals for the Business Personality and Lifetime Achievement awards. The closing date is 13th March.

The ceremony takes place on Thursday 27th April at the Royal Hall.

www.jpeventsnorth.co.uk/harrogate/business-awards.

Meanwhile, The Harrogate Hospitality and Tourism Awards are now also open, with a deadline of 31st March. Categories are designed to recognise the best of the industry, from outstanding individual achievement to perfect teamwork. This year, two new categories have been introduced: Restaurant of the Year and Bar of the Year.

The ceremony takes place on 5th June, also at the Royal Hall.

www.destinationharrogate.co.uk/hhta.html