

The Signs Aren't All Bad!

The news on the economy wasn't quite all doom and gloom from Will Holman, the Bank of England's Deputy Agent for Yorkshire and the Humber, however businesses are finding it difficult to see through the fog of Brexit. Unemployment is low, which is driving higher pay review increases (4% in 2018) as organisations seek to recruit and retain staff.

Businesses are concerned over which Brexit deal the UK may end up with, particularly the 'no deal' WTO (World Trade Organisation) option, as there would be no transition period. A chemicals manufacturer, for example, would have to re-licence all products before being allowed to trade. This lack of transition period would cause a dip in growth. The unknown outcome is causing firms to stockpile raw materials and finished products, and to reduce capital expenditure. Foreign-owned companies may not wish to invest because of Brexit uncertainty.

Although there's no obvious reason, Yorkshire is outperforming the national average. It's possible

this may be due to devaluation after the referendum vote. Whatever the reason, it's good news! More good news is that consumers are starting to spend again, as growth is beating inflation at present. Despite this, however, big ticket purchases are being put on hold, resulting in a fall in car sales and house transactions.

It's expected that inflation will overshoot the 2% forecast, resulting in slightly bigger interest rate increases.



Bank of England's Will Holman

Think the BBC's Question Time is tough?

Even without Fiona Bruce, we expect our next meeting on Monday, 8th July will be packed, as the Leader of Harrogate Borough Council, Cllr Richard Cooper, has kindly agreed to be in the firing line for our annual version of 'Question Time'. Being the leader of a busy Yorkshire borough council means Richard is no stranger to tough questions, so if possible, please send your inquiries ahead of time to info@harrogatechamber.co.uk. This is an open meeting, so guests are welcome. Non-members may attend up to two meetings per year; the very first meeting is free, with subsequent meetings charged at £10.

Date: Monday, 8th July

Venue: St. Aidan's C of E High School

Time: 5.30pm to 8pm



[Register here](#)

Plan your financial freedom with the help of DSC

It's never too early (or late) to start planning your financial future, and DSC Chartered Accountants and DSC Financial Planning are holding two free seminars for business owners and company directors to help them do just that. The first event is being held on Friday, 28th June, 8:30am-10:00am at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, and the second is on Friday, 5th July, 8:30am-10:00am at Skipton Golf Club. Although free, attendees must register beforehand. Breakfast will be available from 8am. To book your free place please email e.roach@dsvca.com or call Ellie on 01423 560547.



Another award for The Harrogate Bus Company

Alongside household names such as O2, Warner Bros, and ITV, the Harrogate Bus Company has been recognised by the UK Better Society, who have bestowed the company with its Environment Award. It was quite a pioneering project to introduce a fleet of electric buses to Harrogate, but Alex Hornby, Harrogate Bus Company's CEO, knows it was the right move, and is absolutely delighted with this prestigious award.



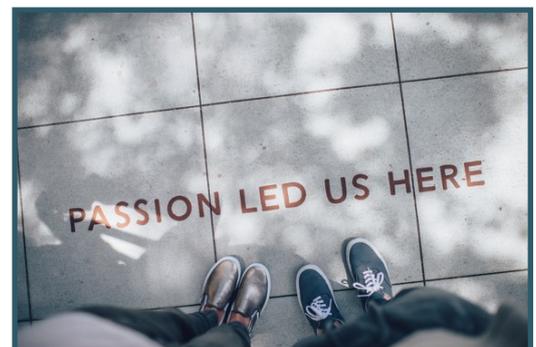
Next Azuma service: London-York-Edinburgh

Less than three months after the inaugural Azuma service from Leeds to Kings Cross, comes the London-York-Edinburgh service, which will commence on 1st August 2019 with the Flying Scotsman. Let's hope LNER do manage to start an early-morning service from Harrogate to Kings Cross in the not-too-distant future.



Harrogate Ladies College Careers Fair

Harrogate Ladies' College would appreciate the attendance of local business members at our 'Be Inspired Careers Fair' on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 between 4.30-6 pm. This will be an opportunity for our girls to speak to different businesses and also where relevant discuss work experience, jobs, apprenticeships and graduate programs



New membership certificates

We have created new membership certificates to recognise an organisation's commitment to our Chamber. These will be hand delivered by Sandra Doherty or presented to paid-up members at meetings. It's hoped the certificates will be displayed proudly! Here's Brian Haines receiving Harrogate Golf Club's certificate from Chamber President Steve Scarre. We have more initiatives for members up our sleeves, so watch this space!

