

March 2020

## Healthy, wealthy and wise

Financial planning was the focus of our March meeting, with a varied programme of speakers each bringing a different angle to the evening.

Organised by Martin Gerrard (right) of [Barclays bank](#), the meeting began with Lottie Kent of [True Financial Design](#). She outlined the factors which need to be taken into consideration when preparing financially for the future.

From being honest about day-to-day spending now to thinking about the way we want to live in retirement, everything needs to form part of our planning and decision-making. We also need to review our circumstances regularly to ensure what we have in place suits our needs.

Second to speak was Alan Budenberg of [Barclays Wealth](#), who illustrated the ways in which our financial decisions are

influenced by our perceptions and the way we frame our views.

Investing well relies on being willing to accept a degree of risk, keeping your composure under pressure and having some understanding of the markets. Above all, invest for the long term so you can ride out any hiccups in the market, and stagger your investments so you can get the best deals, and you are likely to have a good experience.



Continued on p2

## New communications officer needed

Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce is looking for a new communications officer to take over the role at our AGM in early May.

We expect a new communications officer to bring their own experience to the role, and to play an active part in strengthening the Chamber and raising its profile among potential members.

This is a freelance position for a few

hours per month and would suit someone with experience in journalism, PR and communications. Chamber members are particularly encouraged to apply, but we will consider all applications from people with suitable experience.

More details are [on our website](#), including how to make an initial enquiry. Proposals will be invited from interested individuals by early April.

## March meeting report (continued)

Finally, Jonathan Hick presented his personal experience of financial planning—or, more accurately, a lack of it. He has been a serial entrepreneur all his life with mixed success, which also had an impact on his mental health and family life.

He told the audience he should have listened to advice in his earlier years and

would be more sensible in future, but that he did not regret anything he had done, even going bankrupt, because it had brought him to where he is now.

*Thank you to all our speakers for an interesting and useful meeting. Thanks also to [Rudding Park](#) for hosting us and providing refreshments.*

---

## April: Speed networking at our Safari

Our April meeting is our ever-popular Business Safari, a speed networking event designed to give Chamber members the opportunity to introduce themselves to and get to know dozens of fellow business leaders in one evening.

With a significant number of new members joining our ranks in the last couple of months, we're expecting a great turn-out from new faces, so it's a great chance for established members to get to know some new businesses.

As well as the fun, structured networking, we'll have a free buffet for all participants. All you need to do is turn up—and bring a stack of business cards.

The meeting takes place on Monday 6th April from 5.30pm at Harrogate Ladies' College, Clarence Drive, Harrogate. Book your place [on our website](#) — and remember, it's one place per business on



a first come, first served basis. Don't miss out!

**DON'T FORGET:** Places are limited at the Safari. If you book then don't turn up, not only does it waste the food provided by our hosts, it also prevents another chamber member from having the opportunity to take part. If you book then find you can't attend, PLEASE LET US KNOW! We can often allocate your place to someone on the waiting list, even at short notice. Thanks.

---

## New Members

Welcome to all the new members who have joined us in the last month. You can find their full details in the [Directory](#) on our website—and don't forget to look out for them at an upcoming meeting too, such as our April Safari.

### SVH Inc

Valentina Hynes

[www.svhinc.co.uk](http://www.svhinc.co.uk)

07555 391934

### The Harrogate Bartender Ltd

Alan Evans

[www.theharrogatebartender.co.uk](http://www.theharrogatebartender.co.uk)

01423 855969

## Coronavirus statement

Following current Government advice about Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are planning on running all our meetings as scheduled.

We are monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation carefully and regularly, and following advice and guidelines set by Government.

The health and safety of our members and visitors is our number one priority. We ask our members and visitors to

refer to the guidelines and protocols as suggested by the World Health Organization, and UK public health authorities regarding the virus.

We are following local and national public health advice closely. Should the situation change, we will make announcements on our website and email members and contacts about any alterations to our diary.

---

## Business News

**Conference calling:** Harrogate telecoms business Xi Comms has responded to the threat of coronavirus by offering a free conference call number to local businesses making it easier for workers to base themselves at home during the outbreak. The company is offering the facility to local businesses for three months so that they can continue to hold meetings when staff are working remotely or self-isolating. Contact Xi Comms on 0330 333 9200.

**Prizes needed:** Harrogate Hospital and Community Charity is seeking luxury prizes such as gift vouchers, experiences, stays away, meals and more to raffle off at The Harrogate Proms event on Saturday 27th June at Harrogate Convention Centre. It will be compered by BBC Look North broadcaster Harry Gration and will feature Harrogate Symphony Orchestra and Harrogate Choral Society joining forces in an ambitious fundraising project. All profits will go to the charity. Tickets are available from the Harrogate Box Office on 01423 502116 or [on the website](#).



**Congratulations:** The drivers on the 36 bus service between Ripon, Harrogate and Leeds have been named as Team of the Year in the Transdev awards. With almost 1000 drivers across the company, it is a reflection of the standard of service delivered on the route.

### ***Something to share?***

*We publish members' news stories on our website and in our newsletter. If you have a news story to submit, email details to [ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk](mailto:ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk) with a landscape picture.*