

Best Business Safari ever? Quite Possibly!

The word is spreading about our unique networking format (essentially speed dating for B2B), which meant we were very oversubscribed for last Monday's meeting. Our thanks to Harrogate Ladies College for hosting the event and for providing attendees with a fabulous buffet. Feedback has been extremely positive, with members and invited guests enjoying the novel way of connecting with up to 50 businesses in just a couple of hours. If you've never tried it, check out the Chamber's [diary page](#) to find out when the next Safari is taking place.



Another 'New Year'

As one year ends, another begins for our Chamber. Members should have received their renewal notices by now. The new, simple way of signing up to pay by direct debit is proving popular. We've also introduced the choice of paying annually or monthly, plus we've done away with the joining fee for new members.

We have some informative and interesting meetings lined up for the coming year, covering everything from Harrogate Entrepreneurs to Mental Health in the Workplace. And there's the ever-popular Harrogate Borough Councillors Question Time.

We represent the business community, and we work hard to ensure that relevant help and advice is offered to help organisations grow and develop. In addition, we provide networking opportunities to meet prospective customers and local suppliers. We will continue to speak up when we feel government policy, whether local, regional, or national, is not in the interests of businesses in the Harrogate district.

May meeting

Our next meeting is our AGM, plus there will be representatives from Harrogate BID to tell us what's been happening so far, and what their plans are for the future. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

There will also be an update from LNER's David Home, on how the plans are going for the improved Harrogate to London service.

This meeting is open to members and non-members. The meeting is free for guests who haven't been before, or £10 otherwise. (There is a two-meeting limit per year for non-members.) Register using the blue button.



Register here

Excellence in Business Awards

We are delighted to report that four winners at the Harrogate Advertiser Excellence in Business Awards are Chamber members:

- Tourism Award - Harrogate International Festivals
- Best Large Company - Harrogate Bus Company
- Best Family-run Business - GPS Return
- Business Personality of the Year - Sharon Canavar from Harrogate International Festivals
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Lesley Wild from Bettys

Our Chamber sponsored the Best Small Company Award, which was won by Reel Film Media Ltd.

UCI Business roadshows

Did you attend the first workshop on 11th April? Harrogate Borough Council have organised these roadshows to help businesses make the most of the UCI event in September. One invaluable benefit to attending these roadshows is Chamber members Cicada give a marketing masterclass. Check out the remaining dates:

30 April: Council Chamber, Pateley Bridge, 6pm

1 May: Ripon Community House, 8.30am

8 May: Hotel du Vin, Harrogate, 11.30am

14 May: Henshaws, Knaresborough, 4.30pm

21 May: Ripon Community House, 4.30pm

5 June: Wesley Centre, Harrogate, 5pm

You can book your place at [Eventbrite](#).

Synergy retains gold

We're very happy to announce that leading car leasing broker (and Chamber member) Synergy Automotive have retained their Feefo 5 Star Gold Award, making it five years in a row! Synergy have received over 5,000 client reviews for both customer experience and product.



Harrogate Bus Company

Due to a partnership with Slingsby Gin, Harrogate Bus Company are continuing to offer free Sunday travel on their fleet of electric buses. The trial month saw 42% more passengers travelling by bus on Sundays.

The company have also recently announced that it will boost its timetable from Sunday, 28 April, with new evening buses on its popular Harrogate Electrics 2B route serving New Park and The Knox.



New Member

Welcome to the following business that has recently joined us. You can find their full details on the Directory page of our website, or introduce yourself if you see them at an upcoming meeting. New members attending their first meeting will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and say a few words to the audience at the end of the meeting.

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