



Building  
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Brentwood

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

# Newsletter

All the latest news in Brentwood – including special announcements, events and much more

February  
2018

Dear member,

## A message from your Chairman

2018 has certainly got off to a busy start for the Chamber. Thankfully our new office manager, Caroline Judd, has quickly established herself in the role, and is now overseeing all of the administration functions of the Chamber.

Our most exciting innovation for this year is the Brentwood Business Awards, culminating in a Gala Awards dinner in November. Since launching the Awards with a request for sponsors, we have been impressed by how many local firms have come forward and asked to sponsor a category, thereby showing their commitment to what we hope will become a major annual event for businesses in Brentwood. In a few weeks' time we will be releasing full details of the categories and how to enter.

In addition to our monthly Business Breakfasts, we are endeavouring to offer one evening event each month, and this month we have been invited to Pivaz, one of the newest restaurants in Brentwood High Street, for 'A Taste of Turkey'.

Planning has now begun for our Summer Barbecue at Orsett Hall Hotel on Wednesday 4th July. One of the reasons why we chose Orsett Hall Hotel, is because of the 'Chiringuitos' which they have in their grounds. A Chiringuito is like a pop up beach bar, which can be found in Ibiza and other Mediterranean and Caribbean destinations. We will be offering you the opportunity for your company to sponsor a Chiringuito, where you can promote your company and maybe invite some of your clients to what promises to be a great evening.

Membership of the Chamber continues to grow, thanks to the

hard work of our Member Services representative, Neil Hornsby. Please do contact him if you think that the Chamber can help you in any way.

Finally a request from our Treasurer – If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2018, please do so as soon as possible.

Colin Barber  
Chairman

**To all members:** Don't forget, we're always interested to hear your news, whether it's something interesting you or your business has done, an order you've won, a new service you're introducing and so on. We'd also welcome your 'take' on anything that's happened in the commercial world – for example, on the legal front – that affects you. Please send your news and ideas (preferably in Word document format or equivalent) to [Neil.Hornsby@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk](mailto:Neil.Hornsby@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk)



Pivaz, Brentwood

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Newsletter editor: Philippa Barr  
[www.sunsigncommunications.co.uk](http://www.sunsigncommunications.co.uk)



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# 44 Benefit Solutions – your solution to automatic enrolment



44 BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

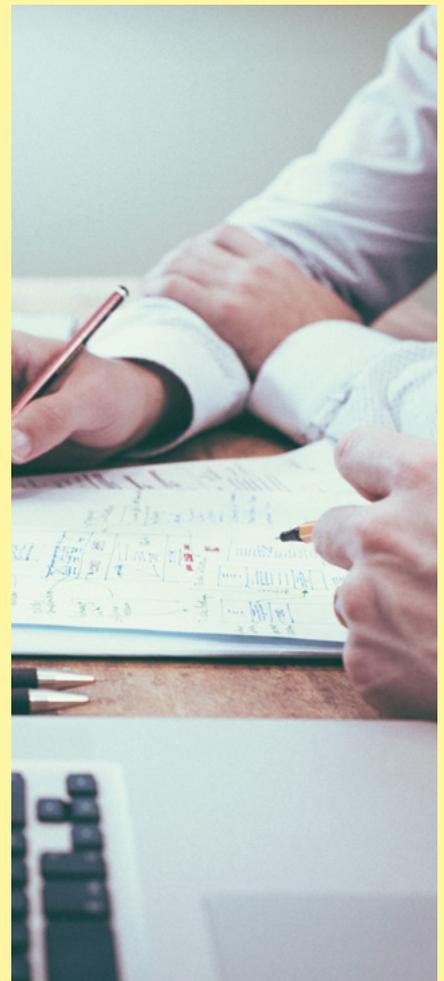
There's now no hiding place when it comes to company pension schemes. Every employer has a duty to auto-enrol eligible employees into a pension scheme. The Pensions Regulator has recently prosecuted companies and Directors who have failed to comply with the law on automatic enrolment – with the possible consequences including unlimited fines and imprisonment.

Although automatic enrolment poses continual challenges to employers, 44 Benefit Solutions can help you to design, implement, manage and review the best possible employee benefit programme for your staff and help you make automatic enrolment a success.

Katie St Pier, of 44 Benefit Solutions, said: “There has been plenty of publicity about auto enrolment but, for many, the constant changes in legislation can seem daunting. The Regulator has entered a monitoring stage of automatic enrolment and is taking a much tougher stance where employers do not follow or cannot demonstrate compliance. Therefore, do not delay in seeking 44's expert advice to review your workplace pension scheme.”

44 Benefit Solutions can support your automatic enrolment requirements in a number of ways, including:

- Initial auto enrolment review
- Auto enrolment compliant payroll services
- Pension scheme design and implementation
- Provider/pension scheme review
- Regulatory communication exercise
- Declaration/re-declaration of compliance
- Governance services
- Pension scheme administration
- Member clinics/staff presentations.



44 Benefit Solutions is an Appointed Representative of 44 Financial Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It can offer the full range of employee benefit services, including:

- Support and design for insured risk benefits such as Private Medical Insurance, Group Life Assurance and Income Protection arrangements;
- Payroll services;
- Consultancy, secretarial, third party administration and actuarial services to occupational scheme trustees and sponsoring employers;
- Design and implementation of voluntary, total reward and flexible benefit schemes, and;
- Financial advice to senior executives and directors.



*Katie St Pier, of 44 Benefit Solutions*

*44 Benefit Solutions Ltd.  
01277 523144  
[www.44benefits.co.uk](http://www.44benefits.co.uk)*

## The future's bright with INVEST Essex



A local business support organisation is looking forward to a bright future in 2018.

INVEST Essex, an investment promotion agency (IPA) and business support provider, was previously part of Essex County Council until it became an independent agency in 2017. It now operates under the umbrella of the Let's Do Business Group, a Social Enterprise which helps businesses to start up and to grow.

Operating out of its new base in Kingsdale Business Centre, Chelmsford, INVEST Essex offers free professional services to existing and small to medium-sized businesses (SMEs) based in Essex, or to those considering relocating to the county.

David Rooke, Location Services Director of INVEST Essex, has a positive view about the future for local businesses: "We can help maximise the commercial opportunities of a location which is on the doorstep of London and which has excellent access to Europe."

One local business, Shenfield-based start-up The Cheeky Panda, which supplies the market with eco-friendly bamboo-based toilet paper, has already benefited from the support of INVEST Essex. Even though it only began trading in 2016 it scooped two awards in the Essex Business Excellence Awards in November last year, as well as being nominated in national business awards.

David Rooke continued: "INVEST Essex has a proven track record, going back over ten years, of securing investment and supporting business growth in Essex."

*Website: [www.investessex.co.uk](http://www.investessex.co.uk)*

*Email: [business.support@investessex.co.uk](mailto:business.support@investessex.co.uk)*

*Twitter: [@investessex](https://twitter.com/investessex)*

## 'Meet the Neighbours' at Stansted – again!

Following the popularity of the previous events last year, Stansted Airport Chamber of Commerce is hosting another 'Meet the Neighbours' networking event, on Thursday 15 March.

Julie Budden, Chairman of Stansted Airport Chamber of Commerce (SACC), said: "Business doesn't recognise borders, which is why you should join us for a great event where you can promote your business to like-minded business people from neighbouring areas. Working alongside fellow Chambers of Commerce and business groups, we are delighted to bring you this unique event to help promote your business to a wider audience and provide the opportunity of increasing contacts. Our networking philosophy is simple for everyone: locate contacts, make connections, develop relationships, create business opportunities and exchange value.

"Why not join us for an informative afternoon with guest speakers you will want to hear? Following the presentations there will be the all-important networking opportunities over a light buffet and refreshments. We have a room full of businesses ready to get connected with you and your business – all you have to do is get the date in your diary and book a place!"

Admission includes light buffet, refreshments and parking. Booking details to be announced soon. Contact the office for more details – [info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk](mailto:info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk)



*David Rooke, Location Services Director of INVEST Essex. Photo by Carmel Jane*

## Dates for your diary

**Business Breakfasts, at Marygreen Manor, 7.30am networking for 8am breakfast; to book, visit [www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)**

Friday 9 February – Sponsored by Wortley Byers Law (see below)

Friday 9 March – Sponsored by Aching Arms, a baby loss charity (“Bringing comfort after pregnancy and baby loss”).

**Wednesday 21 February, “A Taste of Turkey”, 7pm, Meal at Pivaz restaurant, High Street, Brentwood**

We have booked the private upstairs dining room, complete with its own bar, for a two-course meal,

preceded by informal networking at the bar. Early bird booking £15 (Chamber member) or £20 (non-member). See website for details.

**Thursday 15 March, ‘Meet the Neighbours’ networking event at Stansted Airport** (see page 3).

**Wednesday 25 April, A Taste of Brentwood Beer, Brentwood Brewing Company**

Sponsored by Handelsbanken. More details to come in next month’s newsletter and on the Chamber website.

## Executive Committee meetings with the Council – what would you like raised?

Twice a year, the Executive Committee meets the Leader and the Chief Executive of Brentwood Borough Council. The provisional date for the next such meeting is 8 March, so if any one/company has any issues they would like raised, please let our Chairman know by emailing him on [Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk](mailto:Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk)

## Award-winning law firm sponsors business breakfast

Sponsors of February’s Business Breakfast, Wortley Byers Law, has marked an award-winning year.

The firm celebrated another excellent year of Legal 500 awards in 2017. These awards recognise/reward the best in-house and private practice teams and individuals.

Wortley Byers Law was described as a ‘Top-Tier Firm’, with ‘Leading Individuals’, ‘Next Generation Lawyers’ and ‘Recommended Lawyers’ providing its professional services.

The Legal 500 recommended the firm for excellence in the areas of: corporate and commercial, commercial property, litigation, employment, personal tax, trusts and probate and family law, and regards the firm as a ‘notable example’ and ‘key player’ within Essex.

Special accolades went to the Commercial Property team, which made Wortley Byers Law one of only three firms in Essex to have received ‘Top-Tier’ ranking for their expertise in Property.

Commendations for the Commercial Property team included its ‘prompt, attentive service’ (with response times that were ‘quicker than expected’), ‘thoroughness’, ‘clarity in response’, and a ‘professionalism that starts at the door’.

The six-strong team is headed by Aaron Cane, who provides ‘superb knowledge’ and has a ‘practical attitude, sound commercial approach and exceptional dedication to customer service’. Also recommended were Jane Winfield, Laura Harrison and David Grainger.

Praise was also received for the ‘exceptionally responsive and out-of-the-box’ thinking Corporate and Commercial practice, which is well known for its undisputed experience in the pharmaceuticals sector and which also serves the engineering industry.

[Brentwood Chamber of Commerce](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

[Pepperell House](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

[44 High Street](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

[Brentwood, Essex](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

[CM14 4AJ](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

[info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk](mailto:info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

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

[01277 214814](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

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