



Dear member,



A message from your Chairman

At our AGM last month we announced the retirement of our Vice Chairman, Sue Page, our Chief Executive, Mike Hawkins, and our Marketing Executive, Paula Clark. I would like to repeat how much we appreciate all that they contributed to the Chamber for more than a decade.

This means that we are entering a period of significant change and transition. Our Treasurer, Peter Clements, has been appointed to the position of Vice Chairman, but for the moment we have decided not to directly replace the Chief Executive or Marketing Executive, while we re-assess the work involved in running the Chamber in this day and age.

For the benefit of those of you who were not able to attend the AGM, I thought it might be useful to summarise my Chairman's Report:

When I became Chairman a year ago, my initial objectives were to:

- Conduct a strategic review of how the Chamber is run
- Increase the size of the membership
- Improve the interaction between the Chamber and its members
- Increase the range of services available to members
- Make it easier for members to do business with each other.

I am pleased to report that we have achieved the first three objectives and are making progress on the last two.

We want to continue to be the 'Voice of Business in Brentwood', and a key part of this is to lobby on behalf of members, the most recent example being in relation to parking problems in Shenfield caused by Crossrail works.

We also want to be seen as the 'Gateway to Business in Brentwood', which has been illustrated by the number of new members, who have joined saying that they see us as a means of reaching businesses in the area.

Five of the six Parliamentary Candidates attended our AGM, because they viewed it as an ideal opportunity to interact with the business community of Brentwood.

In the past year we have developed a closer working relationship with Brentwood Borough Council in various ways, and the Deputy Leader of the Council, John Kerslake, is now a member of the Chamber's Executive Committee. We will be working closely with the Council to ensure that the Brentwood Business Showcase in November is even more successful than last year's event.

Our future plans are to continue Building Better Business for Brentwood. And the best way we can do this is by you telling us how we can help and support you, the Business community of Brentwood, so please do get in touch.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work, in helping to ensure the continued success of the Chamber.

Colin Barber
Chairman



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Striding out for success

What do you get when you combine ‘networking’ with ‘walking’? Netwalking, of course!

It was a warm sunny evening in May when we held the first of this year’s monthly summer Netwalking events. Setting off from The White Horse in Coxtie Green, a hardy band of Chamber members – plus Dexter the dog – explored the beautiful open spaces of Weald Country Park. Just over an hour later we were back at the pub for a much-deserved, refreshing drink.

We’re proud to be the Chamber that has put the ‘walking’ into ‘networking! Netwalking is a unique type of networking, combining a relaxing, informal countryside walk with the chance to share the experience with some different business people. Walking lends itself to

conversation, making it easy to mingle with and chat to fellow walkers.

Our next walk is on Wednesday 28th June, meeting at 6pm at The Viper in Mill Green, near Ingatestone. The event is free, but so we know how many people to expect, please register your attendance in advance via the Chamber website. You’re welcome to bring a guest – and a dog, if you have one!

Future Netwalking dates and starting points are: Monday 24th July – The Greyhound, Warley; Wednesday 23rd August – The Green Man, Herongate.

Pinney Talfourd: New premises, new partners, for growing law firm

Pinney Talfourd is delighted to announce some exciting developments – our arrival at Canary Wharf and two promotions to Partner.

The firm already has great coverage locally, with offices in Brentwood, Hornchurch, Upminster and Leigh-on-Sea, but we wanted to reach out to City workers, too. A growing number of them use our services so we wanted to make sure we were supporting even those with the most pressured schedules.

Direct service in Docklands

So, you’ll now also find us at 40 Bank Street, right above Canary Wharf tube station and within strolling distance of Heron Quays station on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) – both easily accessible from Stratford station.

Pinney Talfourd Managing Partner Philip Cockram said: “We’ve always placed great emphasis on feedback from clients and we know that the ease of use and accessibility of our services have always been key factors in our success. Our new office means that our City clients no longer need to worry about braving the rush hour to get home to have a meeting with us – we’re now on their doorstep!”

New partners make the grade

To accompany the news of our expansion into London, we’re also delighted to announce that two of our lawyers – Sebastian Burrows and Paul Berry – have been promoted to Partners in the firm.

Sebastian Burrows started work at Pinney Talfourd in 2014, joining the Family Team. He was a key driving force behind our expansion into Canary Wharf, having built a strong reputation within – and gaining many recommendations from – the Wharf’s community.

Said Philip: “Sebastian blends excellent technical ability with a real passion for his work and his clients’ interests. He has something really special to offer the partnership team going forward, especially as we’re now also in Canary Wharf.”

Paul has led the Residential Property Team for the last two years, making it flourish. Philip praised Paul for doing “a fantastic job leading our Residential Property Team, fully embracing our culture of quality, expertise and service to clients.”

Pinney Talfourd is an award-winning firm offering the full range of legal services for individuals and businesses.

To find out more please phone 01277 211755 or visit pinneytalfourd.co.uk



Photos courtesy of JD Designs

A positive future and some farewells mark 2017 AGM

Renewed determination to continue building a positive future for business in Brentwood was the key message that emerged from our Open Evening and AGM.

But it was tempered by some poignant farewells to several stalwarts of the Chamber.



Paul Gully and Paula Clark - Photo courtesy of Ian Davidson

The meeting was held on 18th May in the charming environment of the Old Big School, Brentwood School. Attendees included five of the six local candidates for the forthcoming Parliamentary election who were able to be present: Gareth Barrett (Labour), Alex Burghart (Conservative), Karen Chilvers (Liberal Democrat), Luke Kousoulou (Independent), and Michael McGough (UKIP). Green Party candidate Paul Jeater sent his apologies.

The AGM was notable for a final presentation from retiring Chamber Chief Executive Mike Hawkins, who, along with Marketing Executive Paula Clark, retired at the AGM after many years of service.

Colin Barber, who was re-elected as Chairman, gave a joint presentation with Mike. Later in the proceedings Colin thanked Mike, Paula and retiring Vice Chairman Sue Page for their service and they were each presented with a gift on behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the Chamber.

Our relationship with the Council

Colin has summarised the key messages of his AGM presentation on the front page of this newsletter, but he also took the time to give his thoughts on the relationship between the Chamber and Brentwood Borough Council. While emphasising the importance of the Chamber lobbying the Council on important issues, he advised that in order to get the best from the relationship the Chamber should work towards closer liaison and supporting, rather than 'opposing or holding to account' the Council.

Following Colin's speech, modest increases in membership fees were announced and the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016 were presented by Treasurer Peter Clements.

Fresh faces for the Executive Committee

Mike Hawkins explained that four Executive Committee positions had become vacant due to the rotation rule and that there were two other vacancies. Following a nomination process the first four positions were filled by Steve Ackroyd, Chris Futcher, Penny Hollington and Paul Mason-Hughes. The two other positions were taken up by two new faces for the committee, Julian Goode and James Mannering (see also: 'New faces for the Executive Committee', next page).

An update on Apprenticeships

The AGM ended with an interesting talk from keynote speaker Maria Thompson, Principal of Havering College, who spoke about the work of the college and its plans for further expansion. She also focused on an area of interest to local businesses – Apprenticeships, and how they can be of mutual benefit to both apprentices and businesses.



Peter Clements - Photo courtesy of Ian Davidson



Nicola Jenkin, Brentwood School Deputy Head (Pastoral) - Photo courtesy of Ian Davidson

New faces for the Executive Committee

We're delighted to welcome two new members onto the Executive Committee.

This is always good news, as the more varied the type of businesspeople on the committee, the better. This adds to the diversity of the expertise and experience we can use to provide the best possible service to our members.

The two new Executive Committee members are:

Julian Goode, a Brentwood-based digital content and social media specialist. He has an extensive background in digital technology and journalism and vast experience in producing websites, mobile sites, mobile apps, video, social media and traditional print media.

James Mannering, Account Manager at Interact Technology Ltd, which provides B2B communications with the emphasis on Unified Communication (UC) solutions. James's main role is to retain existing customers/relationships and his secondary one is to acquire new business, mainly telephony-focused.

MP's last Business Breakfast

When Sir Eric Pickles was invited at the beginning of the year to join us for our May business breakfast, no-one knew it would be the last Chamber function he would attend as our MP!

Sir Eric, of course, subsequently announced that he was stepping down as Member of Parliament for Brentwood and Ongar after 25 years.

The Business Breakfast, held as usual at Marygreen Manor, Brentwood, was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Brentwood a Becket, which has recently joined the Chamber.

Sir Eric regaled the gathering with some amusing anecdotes, but also took the time to stress his belief that Theresa May would be the best person to deliver a positive and successful Brexit for the UK.

The next Business Breakfast is on Friday 14th July, at Marygreen Manor. We have invited our new MP, Alex Burghart, to join us. If he is unable to do so then due to other commitments, we hope for the August breakfast date instead.



Chairman Colin Barber hosting the last Business Breakfast for Sir Eric Pickles and welcoming Alex Burghart as the prospective MP for Brentwood and Ongar.

Chamber welcomes new MP

Now the dust is beginning to settle after what was a rather eventful General Election, we're looking forward to getting to know Alex Burghart as the new MP for Brentwood and Ongar.

The Chamber had a good relationship with his predecessor Sir Eric Pickles for many years, and we're hoping that we'll forge the same useful links with our new MP.

Alex said: "I have had the pleasure of meeting many members of the Chamber over the last few weeks during the campaign. I'm determined to support local business and, having been successfully elected, I greatly look forward to working with the Chamber and its members to help employers in Brentwood."

Alex is a former teacher who read History at Oxford before taking his doctorate at King's College London, where he subsequently taught and lectured.

He's worked at the highest Government levels, having been a policy adviser at the Department for Education, where he worked on the Munro review of child protection and, most recently, as a Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, on social justice.

For four years he was Director of Policy at the Centre for Social Justice, the organisation set up by Iain Duncan Smith to tackle the root causes of poverty, and before working at 10 Downing Street, he was deputy to the Children's Commissioner. Alex has also written for the Spectator, the Times Literary Supplement and the Evening Standard.



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce — Sponsor a breakfast to boost your business

Take-up of the Chamber's popular monthly Business Breakfast is booming – and you could boost your company's profile by sponsoring one of the events.

The events ran for many years before the Chamber's Executive Committee decided to carry out some research into what members really wanted and needed from networking. The result was a relaunch of the Business Breakfast in a fresh, more structured format, making it easier for members to get the most out of their attendance.

The date is the second Friday of every month, the venue is the Marygreen Manor and the new format is:

7.30-8am: Informal networking

8am-9am: full breakfast and structured networking.

The cost is £10 for Chamber members and £15 for non-members – and we also have an excellent sponsorship package open to members (see details below):

Business Breakfast Exclusive Sponsorship Package

An exclusive high-profile Sponsorship Package is available for our Business Breakfast each month, which includes:

- A one-minute introduction at the previous month's Breakfast
- 5 free places at your sponsored Business Breakfast for your clients, employees or guests
- A ten-minute introduction and presentation slot for your company at the Business Breakfast
- An opportunity to display publicity at the event
- Publicity in the previous month's Chamber of Commerce newsletter
- Publicity on the Chamber of Commerce website.

All of the above for the price of £100, which represents an excellent opportunity to promote your organisation to the business people of Brentwood. Monthly Sponsorship opportunities are now available for 2017. **For more information or to reserve your month, contact Colin Barber – Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk**

Dates for your diary

28 June – 6pm: Netwalking

Meet and finish at the Viper, Mill Green; ending with optional drinks in the pub.

14 July – 7.30am for 8am: Business Breakfast

Marygreen Manor; networking while enjoying a Full English Breakfast with local businesses.

20 July – 6pm: Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee

Shenfield School.

24 July – 6pm: Netwalking

Meet and finish at the Greyhound, Childerditch Common; relaxed networking while walking, ending with optional food and drinks in the pub.

Dates further in the future for your diary

23 August – 6pm: Netwalking

Start and finish at the Green Man, Herongate, followed by an end of summer barbeque.

14 September:

Late Summer Social at the Secret Nuclear Bunker, Kelvedon Hatch, including a tour of the Bunker and refreshments.

12 October:

Fish Supper, in support of the RNLI; Onaplate, Hutton Road, Shenfield.

15 December:

Christmas Lunch; Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite.

Have you been to any networking or social events which you think could be run by Chamber for the benefit of its members? If so, please contact Penny Hollington at penny@hollingtonassociates.co.uk

Get your dancing shoes on for next month's festival

The 7th Brentwood Festival returns from July 14th-16th at The Brentwood Centre.

There's a family-friendly music line-up featuring headliners Status Quo, Go West, Midge Ure, Jocelyn Brown, The Real Thing and Heaven 17.

The new 'BBC Music Introducing...Essex Stage' will throw the spotlight on up-and-coming unsigned acts from a wide variety of genres.

Held in aid of the British Heart Foundation, the festival offers a VIP lounge, street food, market stalls, family fun

day activities organised by Brentwood Borough Council, have-a-go Nuclear Races obstacles, a fairground and overnight camping.

The main festival sponsor is Allen Ford, and 'petrol heads' will be in their element as the company will be hosting a 'Powered by Allen Ford' interactive display, featuring the Next Generation Ford Fiesta and various SUV vehicles.

Day passes start from £22.50 and weekend passes from £50. It's free for the whole weekend for children under 10.

For info and tickets, visit brentwoodfestival.co.uk



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

Pepperell House

44 High Street

Brentwood, Essex

CM14 4AJ

info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

01277 214814

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

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