



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

April 2016

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member



**SHENFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL**

Our next big event is the **Annual Members Meeting** (and AGM) on Thursday 19th May, being hosted by

Shenfield High School. In last month's edition we regret to say that an error was made and we should of course have referred to our host Headteacher as Carole Herman. Our apologies to her, but we are all very much looking forward to the event.

The occasion will also be an opportunity to say farewell and thank you to our **Chairman, Clive Othen**, who has been in post for 5 years, but is now stepping down, to pursue new business opportunities..



Our keynote speaker this year will be one of our own long-standing Executive Committee members, **Steve Ackroyd**, Local Director **Metro Bank**. It will be fascinating to learn from him about the rise of Challenger banks to, as the name implies, challenge the dominance of the main high street banks, and any positive impact this will have for the business community.



Accompanying this Newsletter is the **formal notice of the AGM** together with a nomination form. You will see that there are some vacancies for the Executive Committee and, if you feel that you fit the bill and could make a valuable contribution to the running of our Chamber, why not give some thought to having someone nominate you?

If you have not already done so, please book your place filling in and returning the reply slip on the Notice of

Meeting, or via the Events page of our website. The event is free of charge, refreshments will be available and there will be plenty of time for informal networking.

We recently had one of our twice-yearly **meetings with Council leaders**. Main issues discussed: were the Local Development Plan, which includes the major challenge facing the borough of finding space to build 5,500 new homes – a challenge set by central government; the Brentwood Business Showcase event also came up. That is being held on 2nd November at the Brentwood School and it is aimed at careers and business. Brentwood Chamber will be supporting the event.

We are introducing a new Chamber networking event – the brainchild of Executive Committee member Colin Barber. Details are given under Members' News on page 3 and Dates for Your Diary page 4. It is a relatively informal kind of event and, if you like walking, especially near country pubs, and you prefer the informal type of networking event, **Netwalking** could be for you.

Thank you to all members who have paid their 2016 **Annual Subscriptions**. Some still remain outstanding and we would really appreciate it if those could be paid as soon as possible. The viability and effectiveness of Chamber depends on member support. We are very pleased to continue to welcome new members into Chamber, but are equally keen to retain existing members, who I hope appreciate the value Chamber membership brings, for a relatively modest cost.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY

Brentwood Holiday Inn,
Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5NF
Tel: 01277 247182
hibrentwoodm25hotel.co.uk



Brentwood Holiday Inn



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Holiday Inn Brentwood

Why was it that nearly 6000 guests chose to stay at the Hotel last year?



Holiday Inn

Was it because of the.....

- 149 well equipped bedrooms - king size beds, new mattresses, crisp Egyptian cotton bedlinen and choice of pillows to guarantee a great nights sleep?
- Complimentary use of our Spirit Health and Fitness Club with well equipped gym, saunas, jacuzzi, aromatherapy steam room and heated indoor pool?
- Nine conference suites which can accommodate up to 120 delegates and an award winning Food For Thought offering?
- Team Builds with a difference? A morning meeting followed by unusual and challenging fun activities afterwards over at nearby "Nuclear Races".
- Function suites to host a celebratory party - birthday, anniversary or wedding event, when the bar can remain open until 1.30am?
- A world renowned brand who have the largest loyalty scheme, IHG Rewards, with over nine million members.



Our chef works closely with local Havering College, helping to lead and develop students, our next generation of aspiring young chefs.

Where possible, we support local businesses and source produce from suppliers like Tiptree Patisserie in Witham, Rossi ice cream in Southend, Knights Meats in Chelmsford and Direct Seafoods from Colchester, all featuring regularly on the menu.

At **Brentwood Holiday Inn** change is happening, come and see for yourself at our informal open evening on Thursday 5th May when you can meet the team, network with others over nibbles and Prosecco and take a look round the Hotel.



The team from "Nuclear Races" will also be available to talk through fun options at their nearby Kelvedon Hatch site.



Members' News

Our First 'Netwalking' event Tuesday 24th May 6pm



Our latest evening networking event, Netwalking, will take place once a month throughout the summer, giving you the opportunity to enjoy some of the countryside around Brentwood. Networking events can be a little daunting for some, as you 'work the room' in order to network. Netwalking is a totally different concept, combining the relaxed informality of a walk in the countryside with a chance to share the experience with some different people. Walking tends to encourage conversation, and there is a natural tendency to chat and mingle with fellow walkers.

The walk will commence from a pub car park, and will be in a different location each month. We will walk at a leisurely pace, for approximately an hour and a half, followed by an opportunity to enjoy a drink. If you can't join us for the walk, but would like to come along for a drink later, you would be very welcome.

There is no charge for the event, but we will be holding a collection on behalf of St Francis Hospice. Please register in advance through our web site, so that we have an idea of how many people to expect

<http://brentwoodchambers.co.uk/events/category/chamber-networking-events/>

Feel free to bring a guest with you, and dogs are also welcome.

The first walk on Tuesday 24th May will commence at The Greyhound, Magpie Lane, Warley

Further dates are: Wednesday 29th June – The Green Man at Herongate, Tuesday 26th July – The Viper at Mill Green, Tuesday 23rd August – Location to be confirmed



CUSTOMSWRAP LIMITED - (MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO IMPORTERS)

WHO ARE WE? We are a new Brentwood business with a new insurance facility that could lower the operating costs of getting guarantees required by HMRC when importing goods from outside the EU.

CustomsWrap limited are an Appointed Representative of Alford Page and Gems Limited who are authorized and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority – Reference 33489.

WHAT DO WE DO? We are authorised to issue, from an exclusive insurance binder, A+ rated guarantees on behalf of Great American International Insurance Ltd to importers, freight and clearing agents in connection with the requirements of HMRC to operate a duty/VAT deferment facility and under the new Union Customs Code being introduced on 1st May 2016.

INFORMATION From our research we have found that obtaining guarantees from banks can mean tying up working capital as security or facing a restriction to credit facilities. Businesses can always use cash to clear import duty and VAT but our new insurance guarantee can provide good overhead savings.

HMRC have already passed our product as acceptable guarantee security in connection with applications and renewals for HMRC's Duty Deferment Facilities. For Union Customs Code changes being implemented on 1st May 2016 we are waiting for HMRC to issue the new guarantee wording.

Our Import Guarantee brochure can be downloaded from our website www.customswrap.com.

OUR PROCESS

- Download an application form from our website www.customswrap.com;
- Save it on your system;
- Complete the form and email it to us at mk@customswrap.co.uk. Alternatively, it can be mailed to us;
- We will then undertake a due diligence and risk assessment process;
- If the application is successful we will make a guarantee offer, including a premium;
- Applicants accepting CustomWrap's guarantee offer will be asked to complete a counter indemnity agreement and in some cases provide security.

CONTACT US AT

M. 55 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BD
T. 07702 023604 (Max Knight – Marketing Director – CustomsWrap Ltd)
E. mk@customswrap.co.uk



Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2016

21st April, 19th May - AGM, 16th June, 21st July, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November

If you have any issues you want to be raised at an Executive Committee meeting, please contact the Chamber office a week or so before the relevant meeting and we will put it on the agenda

Email: info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk

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Business Breakfast, 7.30am – 9.00am Friday 8th April

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR
Sponsored by Holiday Inn Brentwood M25 (J28)

Business Breakfast, 7.30am – 9.00am Friday 13th May

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR

Annual Members' Meeting & AGM

6.30pm – 9.00pm Thursday 19th May

Shenfield High School, Alexander Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8RY

This event is free of charge and will include light refreshments

There will also be plenty of time for networking

For seating and catering purposes please book your place via our website

Netwalking 6.00pm Tuesday 24th May

The Greyhound, Magpie Lane, Warley, Brentwood, CM13 3DZ

No charge for this event, but please book your place via our website

**See Events on our website www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk
where you can book & pay online**

If you would like to sponsor a future Business Breakfast please contact
Colin Barber ColinBarber@ManagementMechanic.com

Sign Off

As you know Brentwood Chamber of Commerce is a member of Essex Chambers of Commerce, and through our membership, offers the benefits of Affiliate member status of Essex Chambers to our members.

We would like to find out more about how you use this valuable connection. Therefore, you will find a Questionnaire accompanying this Newsletter. We would very much appreciate it if you could complete and return the Questionnaire to us, (either by post, scan and attach to an email or simply email the question numbers and answers), so that we can evaluate the relationship and perhaps work out how we can gain even more benefit for our members from it. Thank you for your help and please do return the completed Questionnaire.

Mike Hawkins

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