



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

March 2016

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

As spring approaches, our thoughts are starting to turn towards the **Annual Members Meeting** (and AGM) on Thursday 19th May. It is to be hosted, this year, by Shenfield High School and we are delighted that Headteacher, Carole Herman will be opening proceedings by offering us a welcome to the school.

Our photo shows the meeting in full flow the last time we were fortunate enough to hold our AGM at Shenfield High School, a few years ago.



This year will be particularly notable for the fact that our **Chairman, Clive Othen**, who has been in that post for 5 years, is sadly stepping down, due to business commitments.

I am sure many of you will know Clive personally or have met him at Chamber events. He has been a highly proactive Chairman and an effervescent, engaging personality. Chamber has prospered under his leadership and there will be opportunities to pay tribute to him on the night.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the running of Brentwood Chamber, by joining the Executive Committee, **why not arrange to have your name put forward for election at the AGM.** Nomination forms will be going out with the April Newsletter.

The Challenger banks have been in the news recently and one of our Executive Committee members, Steve Ackroyd, is a Director of **Metro Bank**, in Southend. He will be saying a few words about the rise of his bank

and that particular sector, as a challenge to the established commercial banks.

Please book your place via our website. There is no charge, refreshments will be available and there will be plenty of time for informal networking.

By the time you receive this Newsletter we will have had one of our twice-yearly **meetings with Council leaders**. Among other things, on the agenda will be the Local Development Plan. There have been a series of public consultation meetings arranged by the Council on the plan and more are scheduled.

In our next Newsletter we will include any relevant updates which come up on this or other topics of interest to our members.



Looking a bit further ahead, things are looking positive for a revival of our **mid-summer networking evening** event, which was always very popular in the past, but did not take place last year.

Plans are being developed and we hope to have something concrete to tell you about it soon – one thing I can say at this stage is that it is likely to take place in mid-June so please keep an eye out for more information, in our Newsletters or on our website.

Another networking idea in the pipeline is **netwalking**, more details of which are given on page 4. Briefly, it involves organised walks near country pubs, with ample opportunity for informal networking. Keep an eye out for more information in the future.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY

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"James Duncan has been our Financial Adviser for several years. In that time he has been tireless in promoting our interests and in keeping us fully informed. His proactivity, knowledge of his subject, and attention to detail inspires confidence. We would not hesitate in recommending him to anyone."

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"I have known James Duncan for about 10 years and during that time he has proved to be a friendly and patient financial adviser who has clearly understood my needs and has provided advice that proves sound and profitable. His advice is backed by an excellent level of service and support. As someone who has my best interests at heart, I regard him as a friend as much as an adviser."

Clive Lewis, Hornchurch

Members' News



Pinney Talfourd LLP
Solicitors

Chamber member **Pinney Talfourd LLP Solicitors** have moved to new offices at New North House, 78 Ongar Road, Brentwood, telephone 01277 211755, email brentwood@pinneytalfourd.co.uk They have had a long presence in

Brentwood. Originally based on the High Street but, after merging with Prestons & Kerlys in 2011, they relocated to offices on Wilsons Corner. Now, five years on from their Brentwood merger, client demand for their services has grown substantially and necessitated a move into larger offices at New North House.

Pinney Talfourd are now one of the largest law firms in Essex. Their private client services include family law, wills, trusts, probate, employment, dispute resolution, conveyancing, personal injury and medical negligence. Commercial services include litigation, company law, franchise law, employment and commercial property. Renovations at the new offices have been completed and they are now open for business. The offices look amazing so feel free to pop in to meet the team and find out more about how they can help you.

Managing Partner, Philip Cockram, said of the move "Our relocation to much larger and more prestigious offices in Brentwood marks another milestone in our plans for growth and development and is a testament to the quality of advice and service provided by our Brentwood team over the years which has necessitated this expansion"

New programme to support Essex small businesses Launched (CM9)

CM9 is a new programme, launched by Essex County Council's Innovation Programme (EIP) and Anglia Ruskin University. It is aimed at small to medium businesses, will run over a 3-year period and its purpose is to identify and support the 50 most successful SMEs in the county.

Applications are now open for Essex SMEs to become an 'Innovation 50' company and will include businesses operating in any sector that can demonstrate growth and innovation..

Benefits of the project are said to include:

- Free business mentoring from the Essex Innovation Programme
- Academic and business expertise from Anglia Ruskin University
- Publicity; profile-raising Networking opportunities to extend contacts within the business community;
- 'Innovation 50' achievement accreditation

Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, has been quoted as saying: "The launch of this project will give a major boost to some of the top small businesses in Essex and will enable us to support many more SMEs across the county. Small businesses are absolutely vital to growing the Essex economy"

Brentwood Business Showcase Event



Supporting Business is a key priority of the Brentwood Economic Development Strategy and the Borough Council is keen to run a range of initiatives and events to enable this. Brentwood Borough Council has decided to run a Business Showcase Event on the 2nd November 2016 at

Brentwood School to help promote businesses in the Borough. This will a large and prestigious event for businesses in the borough and follows a number of successful events and workshops in the past couple of years.

It will be a high profile event which will focus on providing a new arena for Brentwood's businesses to network, support local trade and champion businesses in the borough.

The Council is proud of the Borough and wants this event to be really special. A number of inspiring Keynote Speakers, informative business workshops and interesting exhibitors who can show innovative products or working practices are lined up and the plan is this will become an annual event showing Brentwood as a great place to grow, locate and do business.

The Council really need your help in supporting this event either as an exhibitor, sponsor or visitor and if you would like to discuss how you can be involved, please call Stuart O'Neil. Business Coach Pro-actions Group Tel: 03333 440 517 Mob: 07584 307611

Dates for your 2016 Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2016

17th March – Joint meeting with Council Leaders, 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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ EVENTS 2016 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Business Breakfast, 7.30am – 9.00am Friday 11th March

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

Sponsored by Duncan Wealth Management

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)

Annual Members' Meeting & AGM

6.30pm – 9.00pm Thursday 19th May

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

**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

Our Executive Committee member responsible for organising our Business Breakfasts, Colin Barber, is developing an idea for another and rather different type of networking event programme. It is called **‘Netwalking’** and, as the name suggests, it will be very informal, based around walks which will start and finish close to a pub in a different location each month, during the summer months, commencing about 6.00pm, lasting approximately an hour and a half, followed by drinks at a country pub.

The Executive Committee are enthusiastic about this idea, and we expect to bring you more details soon.

Feedback from our members suggests that you would appreciate more contact with neighbouring Chambers. Responding to that, last month's Newsletter carried news of Stansted Airport Chamber of Commerce 'Meet the Neighbours' event on 19th April. For more detailed information have a look at the February Newsletter on our website or refer back to your own copy. You can book your place at their member rates via http://www.thesacc.com/events/icalrepeat.detail/2016/04/19/3/-/meet-the-neighbours-2016-book-now?filter_reset=1

Mike Hawkins

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Pepperell House, 44 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AJ
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