



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

May 2016

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

On 19th May, when this Newsletter is being circulated, we will be holding our **72nd Annual Members' Meeting** at Shenfield School. Headteacher Carole Herman, who kindly extended the invitation to us, is unable to join us on the day. But we are delighted that our host will now be Chair of Governors at the school, Leanne Hedden OBE



Whilst our AGM records confirm those 72 meetings, we have located earlier books showing activity going back into the early years of the 20th Century (the earliest we have on record is 1904). **It is a matter of some pride that we, as an organisation, have been going for over 100 years.** And we believe that our Chamber is as strong and effective as it has ever been.

If you have not already done so, please take this last opportunity to book into the AGM, which will feature some interesting speakers; the hand-over of Chamber Chairmanship, heralding a new era in our organisation's long history; complementary buffet with refreshments; and great opportunities to network.



Our next major members' event is Chamber's **Mid-Summer Networking Evening** on 14th June. This year, the venue will be the Sugar Hut Café. Brainchild of our new events organiser,

Suzanne Smith of BrightSky Marketing. As you may have noticed from our marketing emails, a topical focal point of the evening will be a **debate on the EU referendum** (being held just 9 days later). Views and contributions will be invited from attendees.

The first of our new, more informal networking events is being held on 24th May – **Netwalking**. Details of how to book in for this free networking event are given on page 4 of this Newsletter. If you enjoy walking in the countryside, ending up in a picturesque country pub and think they would be good for your kind of networking, why not give it a try?



With the April Newsletter, we sent out a Questionnaire to find out whether and how our members take advantage of our **membership of Essex Chambers of Commerce** – giving our members associate membership status and access to some of the services offered by Essex Chambers, including county-wide networking events.

We have received a number of replies to the **Questionnaire** and early conclusions are:

1. Of those who responded, most were aware of the membership relationship with Essex Chambers.
2. There were no instances of our members taking advantage of that by seeking help or advice from Essex Chambers.
3. There was a mixed response to whether members received direct emails about Essex Chambers events. We have taken steps to try and ensure that all our members receive those direct communications.
4. Again, of those who responded, the overwhelming majority did not have in mind any specific Essex Chambers services or products which they would like to take advantage of. However, there was interest in their networking events.

Thank you for the responses and we will work with Essex Chambers to ensure that our members receive good value from that connection.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY

**Pinney
Talfourd**
SOLICITORS

Website: www.pinneytalfourd.co.uk

Email: brentwood@pinneytalfourd.co.uk

Telephone: 01277 211755



Pinney Talfourd Solicitors continues to expand

You may know by now that Pinney Talfourd has opened new offices at New North House, Ongar Road, Brentwood. We have long had a presence in Brentwood, originally based on the High Street, and now 5 years on from our successful merger with Preston & Kerleys we have outgrown our previous office on Wilsons Corner, necessitating the move into the larger New North House premises. Client demand for our services has grown substantially but did you know that the range of services has grown too?

We are now one of the largest law firms in Essex, with offices in Upminster, Hornchurch, Brentwood and also recently expanding our services to Leigh on Sea.

The commercial team has relocated to Brentwood to support the area's thriving business community. The addition of a number of specialist lawyers to the team means that our range of commercial services includes:

- Company and commercial
- Commercial property
- Land development
- Property litigation
- Commercial dispute resolution
- Debt recovery
- Employment for business
- Franchise
- Regulatory and disciplinary services

Our teams are recommended by Legal 500 UK, the definitive guide to law firms in the UK, with them saying of our two commercial partners;

Pinney Talfourd LLP Solicitors' Stephen Eccles is praised for his 'ability to grasp the key issues in complex cases'. His team is adept at handling shareholder, partnership, banking and director disqualification cases.

Pinney Talfourd LLP Solicitors is 'a reliable and proactive outfit' that acts for small private owner-managed businesses through to large plc companies. Julien Pritchard is 'an asset to have on side'.

As fellow members of Brentwood Chamber of Commerce we would be delighted to show you around our new offices and discuss how we could help you and your business or come and meet with you at your premises to undertake a strings free review of your legal needs and requirements.

Visit us at: New North House, 78 Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BB

Call: 01277 211755

Email: brentwood@pinnevtalfourd.co.uk

Members' News



Apprenticeships are changing and with this change comes a great opportunity for all UK businesses to develop new and exciting offers that utilise current training provisions and graduate schemes. By embedding offers into an apprenticeship framework, employers could draw down from the Apprenticeship Levy and recoup some of the money they've invested.

The levy itself will be funded by businesses that have an annual paybill in excess of £3 million. They will be charged a rate of 0.5% and in return will receive an allowance of £15,000 towards the implementation and recruitment of new Apprenticeships. Smaller businesses are not subject to the annual rate, but can still reap the benefits of the levy by introducing their own apprenticeship schemes.

In an effort to help employers understand the levy and the changes it brings, Havering College in partnership with City & Guilds is offering employers an opportunity to discuss the upcoming changes, how it affects them, the recruitment process and the financial implications moving forward.

The events, aimed at both small and big businesses respectively, will serve as a platform to deliver information that's relevant to them, whilst providing an opportunity to discuss the levy with likeminded people.

Please visit havering-college.ac.uk/college/employers-levy-events to book tickets.



Brentwood's 8th Annual Art Trail



Returning for its 8th year, the 2016 Brentwood Art Trail will feature a wide range of artwork in 'pop up' art galleries around the Borough. From 15-30 June, local independent shops will donate window and wall space to allow local artists to display their pieces to the public. This county-wide initiative is supported by Essex County Council, Visit Essex, and the Essex Network of Artists Studios, with art trails taking place across Essex from June to September. In Brentwood, the event is being organised by Chamber member, Local By Social, and sponsored by fellow Chamber member, Bennetts Funeral Directors with additional support from Brentwood Borough Council, Brentwood Borough Renaissance Group and Brentwood Arts Council.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for as little as £100, for businesses who would like to have their logos included on all of the promotional materials and to be invited to two launch events in June. Please contact Laurie Edmonds on brentwoodarttrail@gmail.com for more information. If you own a customer facing shop and would like to be one of the featured venues on the Brentwood Art Trail, please visit www.brentwoodarttrail.co.uk/venue-application-form to share your details



Would you like to have Sir Bob Geldof, Tony Hadley, Martin Fry, and Jazie B photographed with your logo in the background?



The Brentwood Festival is looking for corporate sponsor logos to include on our 'step and repeat' board, which will be the background for all of our press photographs. For as little as £500, your brand could be linked to PR for Level 42, The Boomtown Rats, Tony

Hadley, ABC, Soul II Soul, and The Brand New Heavies. Please contact Laurie Edmonds on info@brentwoodfestival.co.uk for more information.

Treat your staff to a well-earned day out! Book a table of 10 in our VIP area on Saturday, 16 July or Sunday, 17 July and we'll lay on complimentary prosecco and tasting platters, in addition to all of the other perks of upgrading including access to posh loos, private parking, and reserved seating. For more information, email info@brentwoodfestival.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2016

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 13th May

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

Sponsored by Sanders Witherspoon LLP

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

Business Breakfast, 7.30am – 9.00am Friday 10th June

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

Sponsored by Brentwood Borough Council

Mid-Summer Networking Evening 6.00pm Tuesday 14th June

Sugar Hut Café, 93-95 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4RR

Early bird tickets available until 31st May, 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

We are pleased to announce that Brentwood Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring and organising the **Brentwood in Bloom awards – Business Category** this summer. We hope you will consider taking part as this will add to the summery feel of the borough and could be good for business. Judging will take place in July (date to be announced). Please keep an eye on our website and marketing emails for details of how to enter, together with a description of the prizes on offer www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk



Finally, may I say how much we in the Chamber office and on the Executive Committee are looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Members meeting on Thursday 19th May.

Mike Hawkins

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Pepperell House, 44 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AJ
info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk | www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk | 01277 214814



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