



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

June 2016

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

We had a very successful **Annual Members Meeting and AGM** at Shenfield High School last month and it was good to see so many members there.

Chair of Governors Ms Leanne Hedden OBE welcomed us all and gave an update on the excellent progress being made by the school under Headteacher Carole Herman

We also had a brilliant keynote presentation from **Metro Bank Local Director Steve Ackroyd** (also a member of our Executive Committee) who spoke about the success of challenger banks such as his in filling funding gaps both to businesses and private individuals, which have arisen from recent restrictions on mainstream bank lending.

The occasion also marked the **retirement of Chairman Clive Othen** who stepped down after five years in post, during which time he introduced a number of innovations, which has ensured that Chamber is not only relevant to its members' needs but very much up to date. Tributes were paid to Clive from Vice Chairman Sue Page and others.



We are delighted to announce that our **new Chairman is Colin Barber** of Chamber member The Management Mechanic, (Colin is on the right of our picture).

He is well known to everyone who has attended one of the new-format networking breakfasts which Colin has so ably organised over the last 18 months or so. We all look forward to the new era and the innovations which Colin will undoubtedly bring.

Some of the new team are shown in the picture above, together with this year's Mayor of Brentwood Cllr Noelle Honess and keynote speaker Steve Ackroyd of Metro Bank.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

A message from your new Chairman

The Management Mechanic
"Helping you understand how people work"

"Firstly I would like to thank the members of our Executive Committee for nominating me as your new Chairman. I feel honoured to be appointed to this role, and excited by the prospects and opportunities which it offers for me to help serve you – the business community in Brentwood. I am sure that we have a wealth of business experience among our members, and I would like to ensure that we are utilising that experience as much as possible for the benefit of our members.

Many people have asked me "What does the Chamber of Commerce actually do?" That is not a simple question to answer, because to a certain extent it depends on you the members and what you want from the Chamber. However if I was to summarise my personal objective for the Chamber, it would be to ensure that we become known as 'The Voice of Businesses in Brentwood'. With this in mind, I will be aiming to establish a closer relationship with many other organisations in the area.

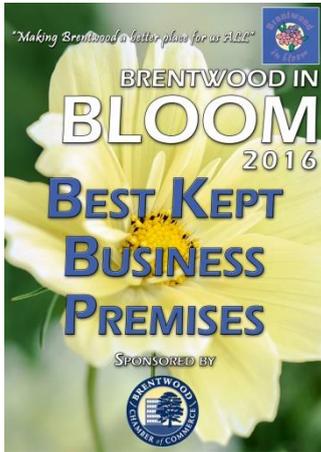
At the moment networking forms a large part of our activities, but I would like to develop other aspects of the Chamber, so that networking forms a smaller part of our overall remit. Records indicate that the Chamber has been in existence for over 100 years, and while it is important to look to the future and embrace change, I also believe we can learn a lot from the past, so I will be looking back with interest at how the Chamber has helped Brentwood businesses over the years.

Another source for ideas and innovations are other Chambers of Commerce, both in the UK and overseas. We are currently increasing our involvement and joint activities with other local Chambers in the Essex area.

Finally and most importantly, I feel that it is my role to reflect the wishes of our members – so please do let me know what you want from your Chamber"

Colin Barber
Chairman

Members' News



Brentwood in Bloom – Business Category

We are delighted to confirm that Brentwood Chamber of Commerce will again, this year, be sponsoring and organising the **Brentwood in Bloom awards – Business Category**.

You can enter the competition by visiting our website www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk. Entries will be taken up until Friday 8th July and judging will take place soon after. The judges will award marks for Colour, Variety, Maintenance, Tidiness/Litter, Overall Effect and Staff Involvement.

The winner will receive a bottle of Champagne, a year's free membership of the Chamber (if the winner is already a Chamber member their 2017 subscription will be free) and a winner's certificate.

The runner-up will receive a bottle of sparkling wine and a runner-up certificate.

Presentation of prizes will be at a Chamber event later in the year. We do hope that you will give consideration to entering the competition as it adds to the attractiveness of our environment and could be good for business.

Inaugural Netwalking Event

Almost two dozen intrepid walkers (and two dogs!) turned up for our first Netwalking event, kindly hosted by Colin Barber. The weather was on our side as we set off from The Greyhound, helping us to enjoy stunning views of the south Essex countryside as the sun slowly started to set. Fortunately the ground was dry and even, making it easy for everyone to cover the 1.5 hour walk even if wearing work suits and shoes. Conversation flowed amongst the group as we passed through Childerditch and Thorndon – and continued as we ended our journey back to The Greyhound for a swift half. I'm already looking forward to the next Netwalking event...meeting new people, getting fresh air, taking gentle exercise - definitely a winning combination! - **Laurie Edmonds, Local By Social**



Special Needs And Parents
Registered Charity No. 1077787

Chamber member SNAP, a local charity supporting Essex families with children and young people who have any special need or disability, are planning to run a summer go-karting event on Friday 12th August from 2.00pm and are looking for businesses to take part along with potential sponsorship opportunities as well. So get your staff, colleagues or clients working as a team and inject some fuel into your corporate engine while supporting a great local cause.

If it's speed, strategy and split-second decision making that you need or a new way to identify how your staff work under pressure, then why not sit them an inch off the ground at 45mph and take on Brentwood's 825 metre long... 8 metre wide... perfect for all driving abilities... outdoor go-karting circuit while raising money for SNAP. For more information about this event and to book your place, contact SNAP on 01277 245345.

SNAP also has a variety of events planned for the rest of the year including a 'hands-on' Race Night (Friday 16th September), Golf Day at Thorndon Park (Friday 14th October) plus other community events, each with opportunities for local businesses and community members to get involved helping to raise funds to support SNAP's wide range of services. For more information and to speak to a member of SNAP about how you or your business could make a difference to SNAP, then please call 01277 245345.



In April, the General Data Protection Regulation was approved by the European Parliament. This set of rules will have a huge impact on all organisations, not just those in Europe, as they apply to all data relating to European citizens.

The GDPR provides a set of data protection rules to ensure that citizens' data is collected, handled, processed, secured and disposed of correctly. Traditionally, European organisations have been very lax on data protection with business owners, board members and trustees either deferring it to other parts of the business, such as the IT department, or ignoring it completely. The GDPR seeks to address this with a set of rigid requirements and hefty punishments which apply to those who run an organisation, making data security and governance a management function.

The rules cover all aspects of what is known as the "data life cycle" (gathering data, processing it, securing it and disposing of it) and require organisations to prove that they are compliant. Let's say, for example, that a customer suffers from identity theft, an organisation will have to be able to prove that they had their permission to collect that

customer's data, they had a reason to collect it and that they weren't the source of the data loss. Something that only the very largest companies are able to do today!

Although a date for the introduction of the GDPR has not been set yet (although it will be in force by the end of 2018) now is the time to act. The amount of work will very large for all organisation of all types and sizes and require a cultural change which will take time to implement. **If you wish to remain in business, this is one piece of legislation you must get right – Nick Bown, IXCG**



At the recent AGM three new members of the Executive Committee were elected and we have pleasure in introducing you to them, with photos and profiles. They are very welcome additions to the Executive Committee and I know they will look forward to meeting you all at future Chamber events.



PAUL GULLEY of Handelsbanken - "I have lived in Brentwood for over 40 years and have spent my working life in the banking sector, initially working for RBS/NatWest and more recently working for the Swedish Bank 'Handelsbanken' supporting businesses in the SME sector. I have been an active member of the Chamber of Commerce for the past three years and am looking forward to serving the membership as a member of the Executive Committee. Outside work, I am a keen motor sport enthusiast, classic car collector and Rugby supporter, being a member of Brentwood RFC and Champion RFC. I am also a lifetime supporter of Chelsea FC!"



KATY BROWN of Katy Brown Wealth Management – "Hello fellow members. My name is Katy Brown and I have lived in Shenfield for the past 17 years. I built a successful career in the City before taking a detour from finance to have a family, set-up and run my own creative and design online businesses, and latterly, return to my first love(?!), finance. The past few years have seen me growing a business locally as a financial planner and wealth manager with St. James's Place. I really enjoy helping people. In my role as a financial planner and adviser, I meet a wide variety of people and spend time finding out about them, their families and their businesses, and importantly, their goals and priorities.

I build relationships with people and it is important that I really know my clients and understand their needs and priorities. Together we define goals and through effective financial planning we set out a strategy to achieve these priorities over the short, medium and longer term. I advise in all areas, and have particular experience with businesses and later life planning, from retirement, to care fees planning through to estate planning. I'm always happy to talk to people – please feel free to contact me via the Chamber website!

It gives me a lot of personal satisfaction to know I've helped change people's lives a little bit for the better through effective financial planning.

Outside of my work, I enjoy spending time with my very active family and watching it grow. I am involved with local charities, particularly those focused on children, and organizing events.



CLAIRE SPURGEON of Pinney Talfourd Solicitors - I am a Family Solicitor and a Partner at Pinney Talfourd LLP. We have offices in Brentwood, Upminster and Hornchurch. I started my career at Prestons & Kerlys Solicitors located on Wilson's Corner, Brentwood in 2001 shortly after qualifying as a solicitor in July 2000. In 2005 I was made a Partner of the firm. I specialised in Family Law but I also dealt with matters relating to Landlord and Tenant and Private client work. Prestons & Kerlys merged with Pinney Talfourd LLP in October 2011 and since then I have specialised only in Family work, representing clients in complex divorce proceedings including high net worth cases. I have also represented clients in respect of child abduction and cases outside of the jurisdiction. I have many clients who live permanently abroad. I am also a member of Resolution.

After merger, I have spent some years in our Hornchurch office further developing our family department and business links there. I am now returning to our Brentwood office and am looking to play an active role in the business community here.

As a partner of the firm I remain involved in the running of our business and am pleased to confirm the opening of new office premises in Brentwood. Pinney Talfourd has been a member of the Chambers for many years and I am delighted to have been elected on to the Committee. I am very much looking forward to assisting the Chamber in any way I can to continue to provide relevant services and opportunities for businesses to interact.

Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2016

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 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

Netwalking 6.00pm Wednesday 29th June

The Green Man, 11 Cricketers Lane, Herongate, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3PZ

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

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

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

And, make an advanced note in your diary for the Christmas event

Christmas Lunch 12 noon to 2.30pm, Friday 16th December

Holiday Inn M25 (J28), Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5NF

**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

The Executive Committee has agreed a **new incentive for members** who wish to sponsor a Business Breakfast or one of our Newsletters. The cost for these sponsorships is currently £100 each (and we believe that represents excellent value for money).

The new incentive is that, if a member would like to **sponsor a Business Breakfast and the Newsletter** in any one month (thus gaining maximum publicity and exposure), the **special offer is £150 for both**. Please contact us in the office to take advantage of this excellent deal and book your month.

Mike Hawkins

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