



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

September 2016

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

Your **Executive Committee** does not usually hold a **meeting in August** because it falls in the middle of the holiday season. But the new committee, many of whom were elected at the recent (May) AGM, including new Chairman Colin Barber, is keen to make progress with its strategic review of Brentwood Chamber activities and perceived value for members. So an extra meeting took place last month.

We will be publishing the results of the review in due course. **If you have any ideas you would like to feed in to this review, we would be very keen to take them into consideration.** Just contact us via one or more of our various contact locations given at the foot of page 4 of this Newsletter.



The Committee was **hosted**, on this occasion, by **Chamber member, Solicitors Pinney Talfourd**, in their splendid new offices in the Ongar Road, courtesy of new committee member, **Solicitor Claire Spurgeon**.

This month's meeting (September) will be one of our regular **joint meetings with Council Leaders** – the Leader of the Council, Louise Mckinlay and Chief Executive Phil Ruck. As usual, we will be reporting on the outcome of this useful regular exchange with the local authority decision-makers.

One of the hottest late summers in recent years may seem an odd time to be mentioning **Chamber's Christmas lunch on Friday 16th**

December; but I know you will be pleased to learn that our **guest speaker will be our MP, Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles**. It is sure to be an interesting as well as, hopefully, a jolly occasion. If I were a betting man, I would put money on someone at the meal asking a Brexit-related question!



Our popular networking programme continues successfully, with well-attended monthly business breakfasts at its heart, of course. The next non-breakfast event is the **late summer networking event at Chamber member OnaPlate on Wednesday 21st September**. The Mayor will be gracing us with her presence and we will take the opportunity to present prizes for the winners of the Brentwood in Bloom Business Category Awards.

As you will see, below, this month's sponsor is Chamber member Holiday Inn. They have very interesting news about a change of ownership and a substantial upgrade programme which should be of great interest to local patrons and businesses. Our Christmas lunch is being held there and this will be a chance for you, if not before, to find out for yourself.

Our Newsletters are also available for all members to share good news about your businesses, whether through a full sponsorship or an article under Members' News. All you have to do is contact us and we'll be happy to help you.

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



@BrentwoodHI



Holiday Inn

Since sponsoring the April Newsletter a lot has happened here at the Brentwood Holiday Inn and there's more on the cards....



Holiday Inn

As of the 1st September we will no longer be managed by Redefine BDL Hotels Ltd and our current owners Apollo Hotels, also operating as Ribbon Hotels, will take on this task internally. Appointing a team of highly skilled individuals in all aspects of the business, they'll provide the property with ongoing support and manage the Hotels performance as well as ensuring the brand standards expected of a Holiday Inn are fully maintained.

From a Hotel point of view there are exciting times ahead with investment and refurbishment opportunities just around the corner.

Next month we will invite trades to tender for the planned works which includes all our current 28 family rooms converted in to double doubles which are large executive rooms which feature two double beds with the ability to sleep four adults in each room. All their bathrooms will be completely refitted with large, modern walk in showers and not a bath in sight.

Soft furnishings throughout all bedrooms will be replaced including curtains and brand new bed linen, plus guests will be able to make full use of the planned new functional, smart headboard units where you can charge your phone and tablets and link your mobile devices to the Bluetooth speaker system.

The Academy conference centre will benefit from a facelift with new blinds fitted in each room and the breakout area brought up to spec.

The largest transformation will be our bar, lounge and restaurant areas which will take on the new look and feel of our new brand standard "Open Lobby". The transformation will give all these areas a fresh, contemporary feel and divided in to zones, will provide guests with the freedom to use the space they want for their immediate needs and occasion. Whether travelling alone, with a group or with children, this unpretentious space is designed to make everyone feel welcome.



Check out our social media pages for updates and live progress reports once we get started, plus your invite to our launch opening with a chance to win an overnight stay including dinner for two included, so you can see for yourself @[HolidayInnBrentwood](#)

Members' News



Mind Health Movement is owned and run by Gabriella Clarke, who has been working in the healthcare sector since 2007. In 2011, after a time of working for the NHS within the Physiotherapy department, she came to the conclusion that the National Health Service needed to offer a more holistic approach to treatment for its patients. As she couldn't do this within her job role in the NHS she became self-employed and launched Mind Health Movement.

Mind Health Movement offers physical forms of training such as Pilates and Personal Training, Nutrition Consultations, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy, Massage and Natural Remedies for various ailments. Gabriella's business is based in Brentwood but she also conducts home visits. She is a member of national bodies applicable to her profession and participates in continued professional development by means of training and supervision. Sessions with Gabriella are strictly private and confidential and if she feels she cannot provide you with the service or help you are looking for she will be honest with you and guide you elsewhere. Gabriella also runs a local networking group that meets monthly and does some volunteer work. For more details email gabriella@mindhealthmovement.com, or call 07533 988 177. Alternatively visit www.mindhealthmovement.com

A Summer of Netwalking

This year saw the launch of our summer season of monthly Netwalking evenings, which was a brand new event for us. Netwalking is a totally different concept from other networking events, combining the relaxed informality of a walk in the countryside with a chance to chat and mingle with fellow walkers.



Each walk commenced in a pub car park, and ended with after-walk drinks in the pub. Our first walk, on a beautiful spring evening in May, was from The Greyhound in Warley, and was followed by walks in June, July and August from different pubs located in the countryside around Brentwood.

Congratulations go to Paul Hookham, one of our newer members, who was the only person who managed to join us for all 4 walks.

The idea for Netwalking came from St Francis Hospice, who run a similar monthly walk for their bereavement group, so a collection was made for the hospice after each walk.

Feedback indicates that the event was popular, and we are planning to run a similar programme next summer.



Brentwood Borough Local Development Plan

Some of you may well have responded to the Council's recent consultation exercise, whether in your guise as businesses or as residents. We understand, from a recent press release, that all these comments will be reflected in a consultation statement which will be published later this year. They will be used to assist the Council in the preparation of the next version of the Local Plan and we understand there will be a further round of consultations for the next version of the Plan.

Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2016

15th September – Joint with Council Leaders, 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 to 9.00am Friday 9th September

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

Sponsored by Brentwood Community Print

Late Summer Social, 6.30pm to 8.30pm Wednesday 21st September

OnaPlate, 42 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Essex CM15 8LB

The Mayor will be presenting the Brentwood in Bloom Business Category prizes

Sponsored by Brentwood Chamber in Commerce

Business Breakfast, 7.30am to 9.00am Friday 14th October

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

Sponsored by Bennetts Funerals

Please also make a note in your diary for the Christmas Lunch

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

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

Guest speaker Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP

who is also the Government's Anti-Corruption Champion

**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 - Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk

Sign Off

I have mentioned, in previous editions that Brentwood Chamber will be one of the exhibitors at the **Brentwood Business Showcase** on 2nd November 2016, at Brentwood School. This is a flagship business event organised by the Council and is a good opportunity to promote and showcase local businesses.

There will be a number of other exhibitors as well as presentations from leading local entrepreneurs. It will undoubtedly be a key event for anyone wanting to advance their business interests. Entry for visitors is free but you do have to register at <https://brentwoodbusinessshowcase.eventbrite.com>

If you are planning to attend, please visit our stand and we will be delighted to see you.

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



Follow us on Twitter@BwdChamber