



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

October 2016

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

We recently held one of our regular **half-yearly joint meetings with Council Leaders**. A major focus for the Council at present is finalising and delivering the Local Development Plan (a 15-year project) which has already been and will continue for a while to be the subject of extensive consultation.



Central Government requirements of Brentwood include building over 5,000 new houses, together with the additional infrastructure demands which that increase will bring with it. This comes at a time when Central Government funding is being drastically reduced, so there are significant challenges ahead.

Town Centre redevelopment is being re-assessed with a view to a comprehensive solution aimed at making Brentwood more attractive as a destination, as well as a place to live and work. Clearly the business community has a key role to play in helping to achieve this vision.

Brentwood Chamber has been running the **Brentwood in Bloom 2016 - Business Section Competition**, for which judging took place in August and the awards were presented by the Mayor, Cllr Noelle Hones, at our recent Late Summer Social Event in **OnaPlate**, Shenfield.



membership of Chamber.

The winner was Bennetts Funeral Directors, who, by co-incidence, are sponsoring this month's Newsletter. Our picture shows Jon Lee of Bennetts receiving the prize – a bottle of fine Champagne, together with one year's free

Runners-up were Nick's Tyres and Highly Commended was OnaPlate itself. All entrants, this year, were complimented on their excellent efforts and were our guests at the well-attended and enjoyable event. A special floral cake was made by Artak and Arsen of Torte Cake Art (www.tortecakeart.co.uk) to mark the occasion.



Autumn has arrived, though rather warmer this year than usual! But it is a timely reminder of two important pre-Christmas events you might like to note in your diaries. First is the **Council's Business Showcase** on Wednesday 2nd November at Brentwood School. Brentwood Chamber will have an exhibition stand there and we will be holding a drinks reception at the end of the event.



Brentwood School

It is proving very popular and should be interesting and useful to Chamber members - with keynote speakers (including our own Executive Committee member Laurie Edmonds), business advice, informative workshops, exhibitors (like Chamber) and of course plenty of networking opportunities. If you haven't yet booked in, visit Brentwood Council's website, or ours, to register.

You will notice a number of mentions in this edition, as usual, of our members – interesting facts, developments in their business etc. If you have something to bring to everyone's attention about your business, please let us have say 250 words, plus a logo and we will feature an article in a future edition. You can go further of course and sponsor a complete edition of the newsletter. In fact we have a special offer, still running whereby you can sponsor one of the Business Breakfasts plus an edition of the Newsletter for an all in price of £150 – a saving of £50. Just contact the office to book.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY



Bennetts Funeral Directors Ltd
120 High Street, Brentwood
Essex CM14 4AS
Telephone: 01277 210104

Planning ahead with Bennetts Funerals means Planning with a family business you can trust



The funeral of someone close can be one of the most difficult days of your life. Everything that you, your family and friends ever thought and felt for that person is expressed on that day.

Bennetts Funerals have been supporting Essex families with respect and sensitivity for 125 years. We are known for excellence and trusted for value. Our offices in Brentwood and Billericay offer a full free advisory service for both traditional and bespoke funerals. We provide classic and contemporary funeral transport and we have a wide selection of coffins, caskets and monumental masonry in our showrooms.

We also offer Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans offering excellent value for money and a unique and secure funeral planning wish list which is absolutely free.

We are proud to recommend Golden Charter, the UK's leading independent funeral plan provider. Bennetts provide a range

of Golden Charter funeral plans which offer comfort and security for you and your family.

The care and concern we offer families we serve extends beyond the funeral; our self-help bereavement support group, 'New Era', has been running for almost 10 years. It offers an opportunity for people to come together socially and receive support and helpful information to guide them through their significant loss. We arrange trips and days out and seminars on personal and home security. We also offer a more structured form of support through our Grief Journey courses which are available at different venues throughout the year.

Bennetts set up a group to support bereaved parents in 2011 providing much needed support and understanding following the loss of a precious son or daughter. The group is now run by bereaved parents for bereaved parents. All our support groups meet monthly in the local area.

When you take out a funeral plan from us, you'll benefit from:

- Protection against rising funeral costs
- Reassurance for your loved ones
- Flexible ways to pay
- A local, personal service

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Thank you for choosing Bennetts Funeral Directors Ltd

you can receive **£125 off a funeral plan when you apply before 31 December 2016***

*Redeemable against a funeral plan from Bennetts Funeral Directors Ltd. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Please present this voucher along with your payment to qualify for this special offer.

Thank you for choosing **Bennetts Funeral Directors Ltd, 120 High Street, BRENTWOOD, Essex CM14 4AS. Telephone (01277) 210104**

Acceptance is guaranteed, regardless of age or state of health. If you would like to know more about the benefits of a Golden Charter plan with Bennetts Funerals, contact 01277 210104. This year to mark our 125 birthday we are taking £125 off our fee. Please mention this voucher when you call. Voucher valid until 31 December 2016.

GC-LIFT 12925

Members' News



Little Legs Nursery offers a home from home setting for children aged from 3 months to 5 years. With settings in Hutton, Southend and Sittingbourne; Little Legs also offers a before and after school service as well as a Wedding Crèche service.

Open from 7.30am until 6pm but accommodating earlier or later drop offs, we offer a variety of options for children to stay for half a day, including or excluding lunches, or a full day too.

We fully understand the gloom many parents feel when leaving their child in someone else's care, which is why we offer parents a live view of their child's day at Little Legs. Once your child is part of Little Legs, you are given a security protected log in and password to view the nursery room of your child on the selected days they are with us. You not only get to see what they are up to but you don't miss out on their favourite activities. Currently the only nursery in Hutton, Shenfield, Brentwood and surrounding areas to offer this peace of mind service, you are able to watch your child play and enjoy their day from the comfort of your own home, office or on your mobile whilst on the move.

With fully qualified and devoted staff we treat each and every child individually and aim to meet their required needs, stimulating and developing each child ready for their grown up years ahead of them.

For further information visit www.littlelegsnursery.com or to arrange a viewing please call 01277 621064.



Businessmen and women from across the county gathered at Hylands House in Chelmsford recently for the Business Excellence Awards. We are delighted to report that The Best Medium Charity award went to Chamber member SNAP (Special Needs & Parents). Manager Hilary Needham said "The charity was founded around my kitchen table in 1994. I had a son that had a disability, so I got together with these people 22 years ago. Now we've helped over 4000 families and have 2000 active families this year. We've also got over 100 volunteers so we're busy and buzzing. I think that these awards are important because it's hard for charities out there. Anything to give us a bit of exposure is great, this will be a huge boost for us, it will be tremendous". We send our congratulations to SNAP and all the businesses that took part.

Brentwood Borough Renaissance Group



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce is an active member of Brentwood Borough's Renaissance Group which was formed a few years ago for the purpose of improving the shopping and tourism experience in the Borough of Brentwood. It works in partnership with the business community, consulting and delivering improvements to fulfil Brentwood Borough Council's vision for the Town Centre, the visitor economy and shopping centres throughout the Borough as well as the rural business areas. The aim is to maximise footfall, the visitor economy and economic growth, as well as maintaining and improving customer satisfaction.

The traders in the borough are represented through a system of geographical 'clusters' with a cluster-leader/spokesperson advancing their interests. The Renaissance Group has a small budget for which clusters can make bids to contribute to events designed to meet the objectives of the Group – for example street parties, Christmas events and the like have enjoyed support from the Renaissance Group in recent times. We, in Brentwood Chamber, are keen supporters of the Group which shares similar objectives in enhancing the business and living environment of our borough.

OnaPlate



OnaPlate is an Independent family run café based in Shenfield. Now in its 5th year, and open 6 days a week, 8am to 4.30pm, they continue to serve the local community with the freshest food that is always prepared to order.

Whether you are looking for an all-day breakfast, a healthy salad, a sandwich or home baked quiches and cakes, they can guarantee the freshness and quality as all their ingredients are sourced locally. They are fortunate to work with Award winning local butchers and bakers, and source all their fruit and veg daily from Spitalfields.

Their coffee is also locally sourced and they insist on using their supplier's finest roast, and their very popular milkshakes and smoothies are made to their own recipes.

They have a lovely outside patio area, and are very dog friendly, in fact they even have their own special entrance. They are also available to hire for private functions, and are fully licensed until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. They have a maximum capacity for 60 people, so is a great location for events such as birthday and christening celebrations.

They are very enthusiastic about being part of and supporting the local community and frequently host wine and spirit tastings for the Shenfield wine merchants, and also display the work of local amateur photographers and artists.

