



# Brentwood Chamber of Commerce *Newsletter*

November 2016

[www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)



## Dear Member

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce was well represented at the recent Council-sponsored business event, **Brentwood Business Showcase**.



It was held at Brentwood School and was a huge success. Hundreds of business people attended and there were over 50 exhibitors, including Chamber (see picture of our

stand at the event – with me is Chairman Colin Barber, on the right. Congratulations to the organisers of the event at the Council and we hope that it will go ahead again next year

At the conclusion of the Showcase event, **Chamber held a drinks reception**, which was well attended. It was an ideal opportunity to network as well as relax after a long but fruitful day. A number of businesses decided to sign up for Chamber membership, and we look forward to welcoming them into our Chamber.



The photos have been kindly supplied by Chamber member **Carmel Jane Photography**.

The next big event for us is the **Christmas lunch on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. Guest speaker is Sir Eric Pickles MP and we have a magician to help conjure up Christmas spirit! It is being held, this year, at the Holiday Inn and should prove a popular event. If you have not already booked, to make sure of your place at the earlybird price, visit Events on our website.

This is our final Newsletter for this calendar year, as Christmas is almost upon us already. Please remember, for the New Year, that **you can sponsor one of our monthly editions or, at minimum, have your business featured in a 250-word article**. Just get in touch with us (see contact details on the back page) and we can arrange it for you.

The main Christmas events for the borough are: **Lighting Up Brentwood**, on Saturday 26th November from 1pm - 5.30pm in and around Brentwood High Street, which will include entertainment throughout the day and stalls; and **Shenfield Christmas Fayre**, Sunday 4th December from 1pm - 5pm in and around Hutton Road in Shenfield, where there will also be live entertainment and plenty of family activities.

We hope that the period up to Christmas proves to be good for your business, and, while it may seem early, in mid-November, this will be the last chance formally to **wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**.

**Mike Hawkins**  
Chief Executive



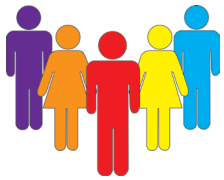
THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY



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**Brentwood Community Print CIC**  
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# Brentwood Community Print CIC

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**01277 849021 [www.brentwoodcommunityprint.org.uk](http://www.brentwoodcommunityprint.org.uk)**

If you prefer good old fashioned, friendly customer service then BCP will be your choice when it comes to printing requirements. Our professional team of graphic designers and front of shop staff are waiting to welcome you and work with your ideas to achieve the best image for your company. From logo and leaflet design, to a complete set of business stationery, we can help and you can be assured of a high quality product to be proud of, delivered on time at a competitive price.

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BCP are proud to say that not only are we renowned for our high quality print and graphic design services but also for the support we provide in our community to improve mental well-being. Offering supported work experience and confidence building activities, we have been successful in turning people's lives around, giving people better chances and opportunities, as they learn the tools to live and work with the most common forms of mental distress in our society – anxiety and depression. BCP receive no government funding and rely on the sales of our print services and donations to continue our work so a spend with BCP is an ethical one.

The good news is that we can help YOU to be more confident in recognising the signs and symptoms of mental distress in your colleagues and learn how to support them through our "Good Mental Health in the Workplace" presentations that can be delivered in your offices.



**Hot off the press – ACAS have endorsed the work we do at BCP in their latest report Managing Mental Health at Work, please visit:**

**<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1900> to view the report.**



Contact: Andy on **01277 849021** or **[andy.woodcock@brentwoodcommunityprint.org.uk](mailto:andy.woodcock@brentwoodcommunityprint.org.uk)**



# Members' News

## Chamber's Netwalking Programme



The Brentwood Gazette recently carried an article about Chamber's Netwalking programme. Chamber Chairman Colin Barber, at a recent Chamber Business Breakfast event, presented Sue Spong, a bereavement support counsellor from St Francis Hospice, with a donation from funds raised at our 2016 Netwalking Events programme.

Colin, whose wife Valerie sadly died in September 2015, took part in the St Francis Hospice bereavement group's 'Walk On' programme. Sue spoke about the beneficial effects to bereaved people which could be derived from 'Walk On', both physically and psychologically to help cope with their personal tragedy.

'Walk On' also gave Colin the idea of starting up the Netwalking programme as he felt it offered a unique and informal way for people to relax and network at the same time. Each month Chamber's Netwalking event starts and finishes at a different local pub, where networking continues and non-walkers are welcome to join us.

Colin felt they were such a success this year, that he is planning a similar programme next summer.



Chamber Member Nick Bown of IXCG has produced a very useful two page guide covering some of the key facts that smaller organisations need to know about the General Data Protection Regulation which came into effect in May 2016. It is extremely important that businesses and charities ensure that they are compliant as they can be **forced to stop trading** if they are not. Nick has very kindly offered to make this guide available to Brentwood

Chamber members. We urge you to find out more about this and how it affects your business. If you would like a copy, please contact the office and we will email it to you.



### Steve Johnson ACA, AIMS Accountants for Business

Steve Johnson has recently joined the country's largest network of independent, qualified accountants. Steve is a Chartered Accountant with over 30 years' experience working in practice, industry and running a small business. Steve says: "I have spent my career providing accounting and professional services; given my business background, I have experienced many of the issues that SME's are likely to encounter and may need help with. I believe in straight and direct communication – I ensure my clients understand the services I provide and ensure their businesses get the right service; my personable approach means that my clients benefit from a trusted and qualified advisor. Regardless of the industry sector you are in, rest assured that I have the skills to ensure that you maximise your potential as a business owner and reap the benefits."

#### **AIMS do what you expect an accountant to do and we do it well**

Tax & Accounting is time consuming and as a business owner you have responsibilities that must be complied with. I am a local accountant who can look after your business accounts and I am professionally qualified to offer all sorts of accounting and tax advice for your business.

I don't charge by the hour and all fees are agreed in advance so you know exactly what you're paying for. Because I am local to you I will visit for a free no obligation meeting.

Steve Johnson ACA, AIMS Accountants for Business

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## Dates for your Diary

## Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2016 - 2017

17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May – AGM,  
15<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 19<sup>th</sup> October & 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

*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](mailto:info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

**★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ EVENTS 2016 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★**

**Business Breakfast, 7.30am to 9.00am Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

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

*Sponsored by Sawyers Church*

**Business Breakfast, 7.30am to 9.00am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

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

Sponsored by Sagegreen HR

**Christmas Lunch 12 noon to 2.30pm, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**Business Breakfast, 7.30am to 9.00am Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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

*Sponsored by Adult Community Learning*

**See Events on our website [www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk](http://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](mailto:Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk)

## Sign Off



On the front page of this Newsletter, I mentioned the Brentwood Business Showcase Event held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. At that event the Council announced the launch of its new website '**Discover Brentwood**'. It is aimed not only at visiting tourists, but also at residents who want to see 'What's On', find out about the history and heritage of the Borough, or the best places to go as a family. It is well worth visiting at [www.discoverbrentwood.co.uk](http://www.discoverbrentwood.co.uk) to have a look for yourself. We plan to create a link from our own website.

This is the final Newsletter of 2016 so I would like to thank you for supporting your Chamber throughout the year and wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. As I write these closing words, news has just come in of a Donald Trump victory in the US election. That should certainly offer an interesting prospect for the years ahead and for the future trading environment. The resilience of Brentwood business people should ensure that we navigate a positive path through what could be uncertain times ahead.

*Season's greetings to you all.*

## Mike Hawkins

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**info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk | www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk | 01277 214814**



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