



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

March 2017

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

Have you made a note in your diary to attend our Open Evening & AGM on Thursday 18th May 2017, at Brentwood School?

This is one of the big events of the Chamber year, to be held this year in the fine setting of the 16th century Old Big School building.



It always offers great networking opportunities as around 40 to 50 people normally attend and it costs nothing, as refreshments, including food and beverages are provided free.

There will be a small amount of necessary AGM business, but that is kept to a minimum and we have an excellent keynote speaker, Maria Thompson, Principal of Havering College.

This will be a poignant AGM for Paula Clark and I as we are stepping down after 13 years running the Chamber office. We will take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us keep the show on the road down the years.

In the last Newsletter we encouraged members who feel they have something to contribute to the running of Chamber to put your name forward for election to the Executive Committee, or perhaps in some other guise. We would ask you to give that serious thought and let us know in the office if you are interested.

Notice of this year's AGM, together with nomination papers etc will be going out with the April Newsletter.

Thank you to all members who have paid their 2017 **Annual Subscriptions**. Some still remain outstanding and we would really appreciate it if those could be paid as soon as possible. The viability and effectiveness of Chamber depends on member support. We are very pleased to continue to welcome new members into Chamber, but are equally keen to retain existing members, who I hope appreciate the value Chamber membership brings, for a relatively modest cost.



Chamber member and Professional Photographer Carmel Jane has been taking pictures of our Executive Committee members, so that we can use them in future Newsletters and on the website, our photo above shows Carmel in action. If you need the services of a good professional photographer, Carmel is the person for you, contactable on 01277 822674 or email studio@carmeljane.co.uk

A topic of great interest at the moment is **Business Rates** as they will be changing in the next financial year. On page 3 of this Newsletter, our Chairman Colin Barber asks for your views – which we look forward to receiving.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

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Welcoming Wortley Byers Law

Recommended by the Legal 500 in 2016 for excellence in the areas of corporate and commercial law, commercial property, commercial litigation, employment, personal tax, trusts and probate, we are regarded as a “solid and sound investment” for any business.

Celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, we have evolved into a legal services provider which is noted by the Legal 500 2016 for “experience, energy and commitment and being consistently excellent in terms of advice, commerciality and value for money”.



So what is the formula for the firm’s continued success?

Managing partner Lucy Folley, who leads the 6-partner, 50+ strong firm says “We constantly strive to strengthen our reputation for providing outstanding work at competitive prices, whilst delivering exceptional client service.”

The Partners at Wortley Byers Law from l. to r.
Anne Elliss, Jane Winfield, Lucy Folley, Sue Dowman, Wendy Beach and Aaron Cane.

“Collectively, we have a vast array of specialist knowledge and experience that covers a wide range of sectors. Our clients benefit from having a rich pool of expertise under one roof covering all their needs.

This in turn keeps everything time and cost-efficient.”

The firm’s business revolves around ‘client centric’ values which ensures that clients receive the best service from Wortley Byers Law and the best results – whatever their goals.

What makes the firm different from other legal service providers?

Our teams work with clients, partners and each other to achieve a ‘Together Smarter’ solution. A combination of knowledge, expertise, instinct and pushing boundaries provides our clients with a unique experience. Our specialists are solution focused, accessible and grounded. But don’t just take our word for it.

For all of your business legal solutions, contact Jane Winfield, Commercial Property Partner and Head of Business Development on: 01268 268 314 or email jwinfield@wortleybyers.co.uk

Member's News

Hamelin Trust

Supporting individuals with disabilities and their carers

Would you like to enjoy delicious cakes, sandwiches and tea in wonderful surroundings?

We welcome you to join us at our Afternoon Tea, Orsett Hall on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May At 1pm. Enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea with a selection of traditionally British, thinly sliced finger sandwiches and warm scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream. Also savour a range of mini desserts and an unforgettable English tea selection.

Tickets are £25 per person; tables of 2-10 available so enjoy this treat with your friends and family

All monies from ticket sales and the raffle will benefit individuals which Hamelin Trust support. The registered charity was established in 1979 and support children and adults with disabilities and their carers. You will be making a real difference to their lives. For more information visit our website www.hamelintrust.org.uk Charity number: 1004432

To pay for tickets by card, please call: 01277 653889

Or if you would like to pay by cash/cheque, please email fundraising@hamelintrust.org.uk



A message from our Chairman Colin Barber – re Business Rates



Photo by Carmel Jane

You may have read, or heard in the media, about the changes to the process of calculating Business Rates, which are due to be introduced in April.

We are keen to hear how this may affect our members, so that we can then make representations on your behalf to our MP and Brentwood Borough Council.

We can also ensure that the local media are aware of the impact these changes could have on local businesses.

If you have any questions or concerns, or simply feel that you need more information, then please do let us know info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk

We will also keep you informed of any further information, which we receive on the subject of Business Rates.

Chamber Member Brentwood Theatre...

Appoints Jon Hare as the new Theatre Manager



Mark Reed and David Zelly, who have been running Brentwood Theatre for many years, are stepping down from their respective roles. They have been conspicuously successful in putting Brentwood Theatre on the cultural map of Brentwood and are highly regarded in theatrical circles across the UK. They have been great friends and supporters of Brentwood Chamber and obviously it will be sad to see them go. Wish them both well for the future.

A new Theatre Manager has been appointed – Jon Hare, pictured left – and we welcome him, wishing him every success in his new role. Jon has had an involvement with Brentwood Theatre for some years, both as a performer and volunteer technician. His theatrical experience includes working with the National Theatre, Young Vic, Edinburgh's Assembly Halls and Camden's Roundhouse. Jon is excited about the future prospects for theatre and has plenty of ideas to take it forward ahead of celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2018.

We wish Jon and Brentwood Theatre continuing success as a key part of Brentwood community life.

Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2017

16th March, 20th April, 18th May – AGM, 15th June, 20th July,
17th August, 21st September, 19th October, 16th November & 18th December 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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **EVENTS 2017** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Stansted Airport Chamber of Commerce 'Meet the Neighbours'

3.00pm to 6.00pm Thursday 23rd March

Hilton London Stansted, Round Coppice Road, Stansted, CM24 1SF

Contact the office for a discounted booking code

Spice Up Your (Networking) Life! 7.00pm Wednesday 5th April

Headley Spice, Headley Common, Great Warley, Essex CM13 3HS

Business Breakfast, 7.30am to 9.00am Friday 7th April

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

Sponsored by Adult Community Learning (ACL)

A Taste of Brentwood Beer

7.00pm to 9.00pm Wednesday 26th April

Calcott Hall Farm, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9HS

Sponsored by Handelsbanken

Annual Open Evening & AGM, 6.30pm Thursday 18th May

Brentwood School, Bayman Gate, Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8EE

**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 mentioned, on the front page, that Paula Clark, Marketing Executive, and I would be stepping down at the May AGM, after 13 years running the Chamber office. We have thoroughly enjoyed doing this job and have made many friends in the process; but, with the Chairman's strategic review under way, we felt that this was a good time for us to move on, to make way for others to come in with new ideas to take Chamber forward. There will be opportunities, between now and then, for us to pay tribute to those who have supported us, but perhaps we can begin now by thanking all those who have helped us.



Photos by Carmel Jane

Mike Hawkins

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