



Dear member,

A message from your Chairman

Welcome to our July/August newsletter – the second of our new-style newsletters. Do let us know what you think of the new format. At the same time as changing the format of the newsletter, we have decided to change the publication date. In future each month's newsletter will be published at the end of the preceding month, meaning that we will be able to inform you of all upcoming events for the month ahead.

We have continued to be busy throughout the summer months, working behind the scenes to ensure the continued success of your Chamber.

Our Summer Netwalking season culminates with our final walk on Wednesday 23 August. Again we have attracted several new participants at the Netwalking events, and hope that many of them will go on to become members.

In addition to the regular Business Breakfasts, we have several events planned for the autumn. The two main dates for your calendar are The Brentwood Business Showcase on Wednesday 1 November and the

Chamber of Commerce Christmas Lunch on Friday 15 December.

Following on from the successful Brentwood Business Showcase last year, Brentwood Borough Council have asked us to play a greater role in the planning and delivery of this year's event, with the aim of making it even more beneficial to Brentwood businesses.

This year we have decided to hold our Christmas lunch at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite near Shenfield station, which is a larger venue. Our intention is to re-introduce a popular idea from a few years ago, which was for members to book one or more tables for their staff and for it to be their organisation's main Christmas event. For small and medium organisations, it is an ideal opportunity to socialise with a larger group of people. The venue can seat up to 150 people, so we are expecting a great Christmas atmosphere. More details for table bookings will follow shortly.

Having brought up the subject of Christmas, I should now take the opportunity to say that I hope that you enjoy the rest of the summer!

Colin Barber
Chairman

Essex business awards open for entries

Let the county know what makes your business part of its success story by entering the Essex Business Excellence Awards 2017.

The awards are now open for entries, with the winners being announced at a ceremony in November, and we're proud to say that, for the fourth year running, Chamber member Wortley Byers Law is the Headline Sponsor.

For more background about this sponsorship/the awards, and for details about how to enter, click on or visit this link: www.wortleybyers.co.uk/whats-happening-news/article/11155/essex-business-excellence-awards-2017

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Aching Arms

Aching Arms, Bringing comfort after pregnancy and baby loss

Registered charity number: 1153296

Eight years ago my partner and I were devastated when our baby, James, died when I was five months' pregnant. One year on, I was walking through the Woodman Road Cemetery on what should have been my first Mother's Day when it struck me that I needed to start living again and not allow grief to take away everything I felt I had to offer my community. So I decided I wanted to help and support the mental health and healing of other bereaved parents.

The result was Aching Arms, which I founded in June 2010 and which became a registered charity in August 2013. It is now a national organisation, recognised across the UK for our work in supporting bereaved families.

Aching Arms donates teddy bears for midwives to give to newly-bereaved mothers and fathers as a 'comforter', to hold as their arms ache to hold the baby who has died.

When I started Aching Arms, the aim was to get 10 comfort teddy bears into Queen's Hospital, Romford, and then just to see how it went from there. We now supply 80 hospitals with comfort bears – with more and more hospitals coming on board all the time – and we've given out a total of more than 4,000 bears.

We also reach out to anyone who contacts us via our website, email, Twitter and Facebook, and we post out

around 50 bears a month directly. I lead free 'awareness sessions' at hospitals across the country, in which I encourage health professionals to reflect on how they care for bereaved parents.

Aching Arms is run by a Board of Trustees and in October 2014, I became the part-time, paid Charity Co-ordinator. We have a team of 10 dedicated volunteers who post bears directly to bereaved families and a network of 65 enthusiastic volunteers across the UK who ensure we continue to offer comfort after pregnancy and baby loss by helping prepare bears to go to hospitals.

We're expanding rapidly, enabling us to offer comfort to more and more families, but partnerships with businesspeople such as those in the Chamber of Commerce are vital in helping us raise awareness and secure funding for our service.

I look forward to meeting many of you at various Chamber networking events. Meanwhile, please contact me with any questions, or take a look at our website (www.achingarms.co.uk), 'like' our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AchingArmsUK/>) or follow us on Twitter (@achingarms).

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Meet the Members



Peter Clements

In our new feature we put one member under the spotlight and 'grill' them (light-heartedly) with some questions about both their business and their personal lives.

Our first subject is Chamber Vice Chairman and Treasurer Peter Clements, who is semi-retired, and

who has blended sporting interests with a fulfilling career in the accountancy sector.

Q: May we have a potted history of your business life?

A: I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1970 and then joined Bairstow Eves (estate agents) as Personal Assistant to the senior partner – who was also a director of 40 other companies! The following year I became Bairstow Eves' first Company Secretary, continuing in that role till 1977. Bairstow Eves now has over 600 offices. I joined Maurice J Bushell & Co Chartered Accountants, a London practice established in 1876, then opened a Brentwood office for them and became a Partner in 1982. I ran the office till May 2010 when I sold the Brentwood practice to M J Bushell Ltd. Although

I'm technically retired, I'm still a partner in the London office and help M J Bushell Ltd when required.

Q: What made you decide to join the Chamber and how long have you been a member/on the Executive Committee?

A: I joined the Chamber over 25 years ago, because I thought it would be useful to meet up with other Brentwood businesses. I joined the Executive Committee in 2001 and became Treasurer in 2004.

Q: What are the best things about being a member of a Chamber of Commerce?

A: Meeting up with other businesspeople in Brentwood and mutually sharing problems.

Q: What about your hobbies/interests outside of work?

A: I have been involved with the Old Brentwoods ever since I left school in 1961, playing football and cricket for them for many years. I was President of the Society in 2000 and Secretary for many years to 1989. I was also President of the football club for seven years to 2001, Secretary for many years in the 1960s and 1970s and have been Treasurer since 1994. I joined the Rotary Club of Brentwood in 1990 and was their President in 2001. My other roles include being a Director of The Brentwood Town Centre

Art for art's sake – gallery myths debunked

The secrets of running an art gallery were revealed at our July Business Breakfast.

The well-attended event was on 14 July, at Marygreen Manor.

We were delighted to welcome new Brentwood & Ongar MP Alex Burghart and to hear him speak (see below).

Appropriately, the discussion topic around the tables was what

Partnership for five years to 2005 and Director/Treasurer of Brentwood Theatre for five years until 2007.

Q: Can you tell us something interesting about yourself that not many people know?

A: I had a trial for Leyton Orient Football Club in 1963 when they were in the old First Division and have been very keen on football all my life. (I also managed Brentwood Boys Football Club – my younger son's club – for four years and was their Treasurer for many years). And I've also run

government, local authorities and politicians could do to help business.

The other main speaker, was John Brandler, owner of Brandler Galleries, 1 Coptfold Road, Brentwood, who was the sponsor of the July Business Breakfast.

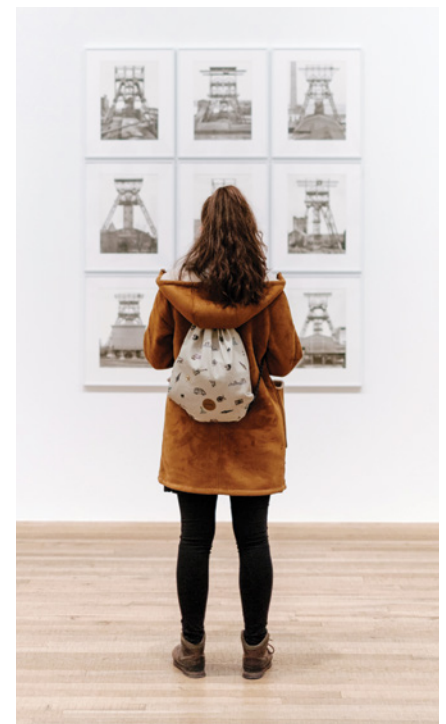
“As opposed to a shop, a gallery is here to inform the clients,” he explained. “Art is there to enjoy. The best art collections have always been bought ‘by eye’, not by price. Be true to your eye.”

John also talked about how he worked with various charities to supply works of art for events, where, for instance, they were the prizes in a silent auction. “One of our artists raised £100,000 on one night,” he said.

several marathons, including the London Marathon!

Q: You're on an extra strict version of Desert Island Discs and you're told that you can take only one item to the island: what would you take?

A: If I can't take my wife – or my dog! - I'd take a photo of our extended family (between us we have six children and 13 grandchildren). I hope I'd also be allowed to take another photo, of my late father, who was killed in the Second World War, and who I never knew.



MP Alex Burghart

MP praises the job-creators at Business Breakfast

MP Alex Burghart hailed the delights of the borough and praised small businesses as being job-creators at the Chamber's July Business Breakfast.

In an entertaining and thoughtful speech he described his previous work for the government (involving education and welfare), saying:

“I loved working in No 10 – it was fascinating and I felt very privileged to have had the opportunity. But

you don't get the chance to be part of community and that's one of the things I'm greatly enjoying about my new job.”

Alex then gave his views on the current challenges facing local and central government and the country's businesspeople. The Conservatives needed to maintain their record on jobs, the economy, and education and had to be able to build enough homes to meet demand, he said.

He noted that unemployment was at a 40-year low, and he praised the vital role played by small-to-medium businesses, saying: “It is people like you who create jobs.”

Dates for your diary

23 August – 6pm: Netwalking

Start and finish at the Green Man, Herongate.

14 September – 6.30-7pm arrival: Late Summer Social at the Secret Nuclear Bunker, Kelvedon Hatch

Including a tour of the Bunker, networking over drinks and buffet, followed by presentation of awards for the Business Category of Brentwood in Bloom, sponsored by the Chamber. Early bird tickets (book by 31 August) £20 members, £25 non-members.

October:

Fish Supper, in support of the RNLI; Onaplate, Hutton Road, Shenfield.

15 December:

Christmas Lunch, Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite, Shenfield.

Laurie walks 1,000 miles for charity

Chamber member Laurie Edmonds of Local By Social (www.localbysocial.co.uk) is more than half way through her charity challenge – to walk a total of 1,000 miles in aid of the British Heart Foundation by 31 December.

Laurie has already completed the BHF London to Brighton Trek in June, covering 60 miles. But even before that, she redoubled her efforts for the most poignant of reasons – the sudden death of her beloved father from a heart attack in April.

She said: “My dad will be my motivation for every step I take.”

To donate to Laurie’s cause, visit her JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/Laurie-Edmonds>

The return of Brentwood Business Showcase

Brentwood Business Showcase is back at Brentwood School on Wednesday 1 November, following the success of the first event last year.

This free event is unmissable for businesses, whether fledgling or established, and it includes:

- Keynote speakers
- Business advice
- Workshops
- Exhibitors
- Networking opportunities
- A drinks/networking reception, hosted by the Chamber, from 4-5pm

There’ll be a focus on the digital future for businesses, with representatives from Google and Microsoft giving top tips about how to leverage your technical skills to boost your coffers.

Attendees will also find out about proposals for a new Enterprise Park at M25 junction 29.

Chamber member Wortley Byers Law is the Platinum (headline) sponsor of the Showcase and the firm will also be sponsoring a networking cafe at the event.

To book your free visitor tickets, or to find out how to be a sponsor or an exhibitor, visit:

www.brentwoodbusinessshowcase.co.uk

Help for your charity

Calling all not-for-profit and charity Chamber members – we’ve launched an exciting new initiative to help you.

We would love to work with you to help you raise awareness for

your organisation across the wider Brentwood business community through one of our popular networking events.

Please contact the Events Team (see our website) if you have an exciting idea for an event, and we will be delighted to discuss how the Chamber

can partner with you and support you in your endeavours.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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