



**Building
Better
Business for
Brentwood**

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter

**All the latest news in Brentwood –
including special announcements,
events and much more**

**December
2017**

Dear member,

A message from your Chairman

The Brentwood Business Showcase proved to be an excellent recruiting ground for the Chamber of Commerce, with our membership being boosted by about 20 new applications this month. If you are reading this and are not a member then please contact Neil Hornsby to hear about the many benefits of membership:
Neil.Hornsby@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk

Preparations are now underway for our final event of 2017, the Christmas Lunch, which promises to be bigger and even better this year. We've had an excellent response to our 'Book a Table' offer, but still have space if you would like to take up this great opportunity to invite your colleagues, customers, suppliers and so on.

After lunch you will hear two successful local businessmen and Chamber members, Jack Maywood and Ian Marshall, each sharing their inspiring stories of how they developed their respective businesses.

Our major new initiative for 2018 is the Brentwood Business Awards, which were announced at the Showcase. This is an exciting project and will help to increase the profile of the Chamber and, of course, all those who participate. There will be a lot of work involved between now and the Awards ceremony, but I'm sure it will be worth the effort. We're currently studying other award schemes so we can replicate their best features. More details of the Awards, including sponsorship packages, will be announced at the Christmas Lunch.

Also at the Christmas Lunch, we'll be telling you about a big social event to be staged by the Chamber next summer.

We have only 20 places available for our private tour of the Houses of Parliament on 26 January, so we're initially restricting it to members only. If you haven't already booked, please do so soon to avoid disappointment.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for you and your business in 2018.

Colin Barber
Chairman



Brentwood Business Awards

At Brentwood Business Showcase last month we launched our major new initiative for 2018 – the Brentwood Business Awards. This significant initiative will culminate in an awards ceremony towards the end of the year. Each award category will have a different sponsor and there will be one overall winner of the prestigious title 'Brentwood Business of the Year'. Entries open early in 2018. For more details – or to offer to sponsor an award – visit: www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk/business-awards

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It started with a sneeze – how a hobby became a business

Chamber member David Strelitz, owner of David Strelitz Video Productions, shares his fascinating and inspiring business story.



Picture the scene: 1982, David Strelitz languishes in bed, recovering from a severe bout of pneumonia. He's the manager of a dental laboratory – a specialist in dental ceramics (crowns and bridgework) at one of the country's biggest dental practices. Whilst convalescing he embarks on a new hobby and buys a video camera and recorder, with not a thought that this would lead to a major career change.



David Strelitz

“Back then, video cameras were in their infancy and cine film was still very popular,” he explained.

To his surprise, requests to film events soon began to trickle in and by September 1983 he was able to form a part-time business, initially filming weddings and parties and also duplicating video tapes and transferring cine film to video. By 1987 he turned his back on dentistry and video production became David's full-time job.

From Down's Syndrome to the West End stage

Since then, David has become an experienced, award-winning video producer who's worked across the UK and Europe and kept abreast of ever-changing technology. He's produced videos covering everything from dementia, Down's Syndrome and surgical procedures to corporate promotions and health and safety programmes, and has been hired by everyone from SMEs to PLCs.

He said: “I've filmed professional theatre productions and conferences for major organisations at venues including top West End theatres and prestigious conference venues and at wonderful locations from Monte Carlo to Milton Keynes. (OK, some are more wonderful than others...)”

'Hairy', is the word he uses to describe two particular assignments: Supervan 3 (a Ford Transit with a 3 litre Cosworth racing engine) filmed on the Ford European test track at Dunton and a reconstruction of a glider accident filmed in North Wales, which culminated in a full-scale emergency landing when the Cessna he was flying home in developed engine problems.

Filming on factory production lines over the years has allowed him to become an 'expert' on how some things are made, including how wellington boots are manufactured, how wall planners are printed, laminated and rolled for despatch, how car radiators are assembled, how jam is made in Tiptree and how bespoke, handcrafted coffins are manufactured.

Do the burlesque

David has made many TV commercials shown on ITV, STV, UTV and Sky and even promos for a Las Vegas burlesque cabaret show. “Some jobs are tougher than others,” he joked.

All these years later his cine film and video transfer service is still very much in demand from both private customers and photographic outlets, with DVD and USB sticks replacing video tapes. He offers a 'one-stop shop', providing video production in-house from script to screen. For large projects, David assembles a team of specialist, broadcast-experienced professionals, some of whom he has worked with for over 25 years.

“I consider myself very lucky. I'm doing something that I enjoy and there is rarely a day that I do not learn something new in an ever-changing technology”.

A video can really enhance a business website, so if you want to know more about how David can help you with this – or any other type of video service you need – email David on david@dsvp.co.uk or phone him on 01268 412048.

Legal 500 UK ranks Pinney Talfourd LLP the best in the borough

Pinney Talfourd LLP was recommended in an outstanding ten categories when the Legal 500 UK results were published last month, beating stiff competition from other local firms.

Legal 500 is widely seen as the definitive list of best legal practices around the world. The UK rankings are split into regions and are carefully selected after rigorous assessment including client interviews.

The family team are celebrating a promotion to Tier 1, making them one of the top four practices in Essex and the best in their home towns.

The Employment team are also delighted to have moved up the rankings, beating local competition to be named the best in Havering and Brentwood. Alex Pearce was named a 'next generation lawyer' and the team were deemed a "very practical, forward-thinking, responsive and reliable employment practice that is noted for its professionalism in all areas".

Edward Garston joined Pinney Talfourd only last year, having already forged a reputation in Essex for his commercial acumen. Legal 500 UK have recommended him as a 'next generation lawyer' who specialises in corporate finance matters.

Keeley Miller and Bushra Elzubeir were also given the accolade of 'next generation lawyers' whilst their commercial teams, property and litigation respectively, were ranked highly in the league tables yet again.



To celebrate this achievement, Pinney Talfourd are offering a **FREE BUSINESS LEGAL REVIEW** to all new clients, with the opportunity to review all legal aspects of your business; from policies and procedures to your tenancy agreements or help with unpaid client bills.

A total of ten practice areas were recommended for excellence in the South East region – pretty much every practice area that has a Legal 500 category;

- Employment
- Corporate and Commercial
- Commercial Property
- Commercial Litigation
- Property Litigation
- Debt Recovery
- Family
- Personal Tax, Trusts & Probate
- Personal Injury (Claimant)
- Clinical Negligence (Claimant)

Managing Partner Philip Cockram said: "We are delighted that our hard work has been recognised yet again in such a prestigious listing. I am very proud of the team here and the fact that so many individuals have been singled out for their excellent work just goes to show that we are achieving our goal of a first class service with first class results."

Pinney Talfourd offers services across Essex and London and provides a flexible, tailored service and a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We are available to advise on all aspects of private and business law. To read the full list of lawyers and teams recommended by Legal 500 UK visit www.pinneytalfourd.co.uk

Visit to the Houses of Parliament

Local MP Alex Burghart has kindly arranged a private guided tour of the Houses of Parliament for the afternoon of Friday 26 January. Lasting 95 minutes, it will be conducted by a Parliament tour guide and will take in many famous areas of this historic building. After the tour we will adjourn to the Red Lion pub – great for lovers of political history – in nearby Parliament Street, where we have our own private bar and dining room booked for an early dinner. For your convenience and comfort we've arranged return coach travel from Brentwood. To book, visit: www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk/events/category/chamber-networking-events



Partners celebrate Legal 500 achievement

Dates for your diary

Friday 8 December – Business Breakfast

This breakfast is sponsored by David Strelitz Video Productions. To book, visit <http://brentwoodchambers.co.uk/event/december-business-breakfast/>

Why not promote your own business by sponsoring this popular event?

Contact Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk

Friday 15 December – Christmas Lunch

Tickets now on sale at Early Bird price

Friday 26 January – Visit to Houses of Parliament

Tickets are now available



New Office manager

The Chamber has appointed a part time Office Manager. Caroline Judd started in the role at the end of last month (November).

Initially she will be taking on the administration work which has been handled by Neil Hornsby, but, going forward, she will also be covering some of the tasks currently carried out by members of the Executive Committee.

Chamber Chairman Colin Barber said: "We're delighted to welcome Caroline into the role. She has extensive corporate experience with several leading organisations, including KPMG, Ernst & Young and Clifford Chance, so I am sure she will be a great asset to the Chamber. She is also enthusiastic about developing the role as the Chamber moves forward and I am sure everyone will want to join me in wishing her all the best in her new position."

Guest speakers for Christmas Lunch confirmed

As we're announcing more details of the Brentwood Business Awards (see page 1) at our Christmas Lunch, we thought it would be great to have as our guest speakers two successful local entrepreneurs. They are:

Jack Maywood, the landlord of The Spread Eagle pub in Queens Road. Jack, 24, has turned the pub from a mere 'local' into one of the most popular meeting places in Brentwood – and on a very limited budget.

Ian Marshall, owner and creator of award-winning Spargo Hairdressing, which is one of the largest salons in

Brentwood. More than just a hairdressers, Spargo has its own academy and now also Spargoland, a purpose-built salon offering a safe, trusted and fun environment for adults and children with learning, physical and additional needs.

We're looking forward to hearing their stories and their underlying business philosophies.

To book your ticket for the Lunch, visit:

<http://brentwoodchambers.co.uk/event/chamber-christmas-luncheon/>

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