



**Building
Better
Business for
Brentwood**

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter

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

March
2018

Dear member,

A message from your Chairman

Now that spring is on the way, here at the Chamber our thoughts are turning to our annual Open Evening and AGM on Thursday 17 May.

This is the main opportunity for you, the members, and also potential new members to come along and hear about what the Chamber has done in the past year and what we are planning for the year ahead. As part of our policy of helping members promote their organisations to other members this year's AGM will be held at Sawyers Church, courtesy of their minister Peter Jordan. Sawyers Church joined the Chamber in 2016 as they realised how it would help them to create links with other organisations in the Borough.

The AGM will also be an opportunity to hear from the headline sponsors of the inaugural Brentwood Business Awards. They will be talking about what the Awards mean to them and why they chose to be the main sponsor.

As you are probably aware, the Chamber is run by a committee of

local business people, representing a diverse range of businesses in and around Brentwood. The AGM is a time when new committee members are elected and we would welcome new members with new ideas. If you think you might like to be involved, and want to hear more, then do let me know.

Our visit to the Houses of Parliament in January was an excellent day out and proved very popular. It prompted the question from several members: 'Where next?', with the suggestion that maybe we could arrange more excursions/guided tours to other venues. Over to you – any suggestions?

Last month, for the first time ever our Business Breakfast was sold out three days before the event, so do remember to book early.

Finally, we are in the process of compiling a programme of training days for our members, giving you the opportunity to brush up on key business skills. If there are any particular subjects you would like to be covered, please contact us.

Colin Barber
Chairman

An alcoholic frolic of a fundraiser!

Can you tell your Pinot Gris from your Pinot Noir? Warley-based SNAP charity is holding a fundraising Wine Tasting on Friday 20 April at Shenfield Parish Hall, Hutton Road, Shenfield CM15 8LB.

SNAP has teamed up with fellow Chamber member The Shenfield Wine Company to offer you the chance to sample a variety of wines and to try to beat the bluffers! It costs £15 a head, and tables of 8 people are invited to this event, so check availability/book by emailing events@snapcharity.org or by phoning 01277 245345.

SNAP (Special Needs and Parents) is a registered charity that helps Essex families with children and young people who have any special need or disability.

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Absent Owners



When registering your ownership of a property, your Conveyancer will include in the application a contact postal address for you to be included on the register of the property. If you are intending to live there, this would usually be the property address. However, if you do not plan to live at the property, it is important that your Conveyancer is made aware of this so that he or she can include an alternative contact address. The Land Registry will accept up to three contact addresses. The first must be a postal address – this doesn't have to be in the United Kingdom. The two other addresses can include another postal address, UK DX Box Number or even an email address.

It is vital that the Land Registry is provided with up to date contact details from a registered proprietor so that it can contact the registered proprietor in the event of any suspicious application to change the name of the owner on the title.

Your contact details can be updated at any time by filling in Form COG1.

If you have bought a property as a holiday home or to rent out then it is possible to put a restriction on the title to that property. The restriction means that the Land Registry cannot change the name of the owner on the title to the property without a Certificate signed by a Conveyancer. The Conveyancer will have had to check the identity of the person who signed the transfer form and be satisfied that he or she is the current registered owner of the property.

If you are worried about property fraud and wish your contact details to be updated at the Land Registry or a restriction put on the title, please contact Pat Astell-Wood or Kirsten Vincent at Wortley Byers who will be happy to help you.

Pat Astell-Wood, Kirsten Vincent. Wortley Byers Law.

*Pat Astell Wood email:
pastell-wood@wortleybyers.co.uk
DD: 01277 268312*

*Kirsten Vincent email:
kvincent@wortleybyers.co.uk
DD: 01277 268366*

UPCOMING PILON, NMW AND SMP CHANGES AFOOT

Employers need to be aware of the impending changes to payments in lieu of notice (PILON), National Minimum Wage (NMW) and Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP). Pinney Talfourd gives a brief explanation of what is changing.

PILON

From April 2018, all notice pay will be subject to both tax and national insurance contributions, regardless of the contractual provision. Employers should take note that this will also include bonuses, commission or any other monies that would have arisen during the notice period as set out in the contract of employment or service agreement. As such, employees and employers will not be able to utilise the tax-free threshold of £30,000 for such payments.

Prior to this, the general rule was that if the employment contract contained a PILON clause or that it was custom and practice for the employer to make such payments, then the notice sum was viewed as earnings and subject to the normal deductions for tax and national insurance contributions as one would expect.

HMRC are likely to seek to recover the income tax and national insurance contributions together with penalties and interest owed, should employers seek to classify a PILON as non-taxable.



Where an employee and employer have entered into a settlement agreement, it is common to see a tax indemnity regarding the payment being made, i.e. that the employee is indemnifying the employer for any income tax or employee national insurance contributions, interest and penalties should HMRC determine that tax and/or national insurance is due in respect of the payments made.

NMW

National Minimum Wage rates will also be increasing:

- Aged 25 and above (national living wage rate) = £7.83 per hour
- Aged 21 to 24 inclusive = £7.38 per hour
- Aged 18 to 20 inclusive = £5.90 per hour
- Aged under 18 (but above compulsory school leaving age) = £4.20 per hour
- Apprentices aged under 19 = £3.70 per hour
- Apprentices aged 19 and over, but in the first year of their apprenticeship = £3.70 per hour

SMP

Statutory Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Shared Parental Pay rates will also be changing from April 2018.

TYPE OF PAYMENT OR RECOVERY	2018 TO 2019 RATE
SMP – weekly rate for first 6 weeks	90% of the employee’s average weekly earnings
SMP – weekly rate for remaining weeks	£145.18 or 90% of the employee’s average weekly earnings, whichever is lower
Statutory Paternity Pay – weekly rate	£145.18 or 90% of the employee’s average weekly earnings, whichever is lower
Statutory Adoption Pay – weekly rate for first 6 weeks	90% of employee’s average weekly earnings
SAP – weekly rate for remaining weeks	£145.18 or 90% of the employee’s average weekly earnings, whichever is lower
Statutory Shared Parental Pay – weekly rate	£145.18 or 90% of the employee’s average weekly earnings, whichever is lower

For full details visit Pinney Talfourd’s website:

<https://www.pinneytalfourd.co.uk/news-and-events/news/item/upcoming-pilon-nmw-smp-changes-afoot>

Time for tea – for Aching Arms



People across the UK are being urged to hold a Forget Me Not Tea Party to raise money for Aching Arms, a national baby loss charity (and Chamber member) which was founded by Leanne Turner.

Aching Arms, which aims to bring comfort to families following the loss of a baby, is also the sponsor of this month’s Chamber Business Breakfast.

It has launched its 3rd annual fundraiser, the Forget Me Not Tea Party, and wants you to get involved by holding a tea party any time between the beginning of March and the end of June. The events can be as large or as small as you like.

Established in 2010, Aching Arms became a registered charity in 2013. It runs a teddy bear donation programme at 98 hospitals across the UK. The bears are donated to hospitals for midwives to give to parents.

These hospitals include Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, Basildon Hospital, Queen’s Hospital, Romford, Southend Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, and Colchester Hospital.

The bears are donated in memory of an individual baby and are given as comforters to those whose baby has died. Attached to each bear is a label showing the name of the baby in whose memory it was donated. This label also directs parents to the Aching Arms website, where grieving parents can find links to access further support.

Aching Arms’ coordinator Leanne Turner said: “This is the third year of our annual fundraiser and I would love Brentwood businesses to get behind me, and truly embrace the charity founded in memory of my son James.

“We’re asking people to hold a Forget Me Not Tea Party at their home, at their workplace or in their community. All the money raised from the tea parties will go towards ensuring that we can continue to bring comfort to bereaved parents.”

To request a Forget Me Not Tea Party information pack, email getinvolved@achingarms.co.uk

For more information about Aching Arms, contact us on the same email address or visit our website – www.achingarms.co.uk

Chamber Events Calendar 2018

March

Thursday 15th - "Meet The Neighbours"
Stansted Airport

April

Friday 13th - Business Breakfast
Wednesday 25th - "Taste of Brentwood Beer";
Brentwood Brewing Company

May

Friday 11th - Business Breakfast
Thursday 17th - AGM and Open Evening
Wednesday 23rd - Netwalking

June

Friday 8th - Business Breakfast
Monday 25th - Netwalking

July

Wednesday 4th - Barbecue
Friday 13th - Business Breakfast
Tuesday 24th - Netwalking

August

Friday 10th - Business Breakfast
Thursday 23rd - Netwalking

September

Friday 14th - Business Breakfast
TBA - Evening Event

October

Friday 12th - Business Breakfast
TBA - Evening Event
Wednesday 31st - Business Showcase;
date to be confirmed

November

Friday 9th - Business Awards Ceremony;
Hutton Banqueting Suite
Friday 16th - Business Breakfast
Saturday 24th - Christmas Lighting up in Brentwood;
See website <http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=417>

December

Friday 14th - Business Breakfast
Wednesday 19th - Christmas Lunch;
Hutton Banqueting Suite

Keep your eye on the website for:

Joint Inter-Chambers Quiz night
Behind the scenes visit to Queen's Theatre
A box at a sporting event
A Saturday lunchtime event

Networking Groups in the Brentwood Area

The Chamber is pleased to bring details of other networking groups to your attention:

Brentwood Professionals Networking Group (BPNG):
last Friday of the month; 1pm to 3pm; O'Neill's,
Brentwood High Street; contact Paul Gulley, Handelsbanken,
01245 347906

The Circle: third Thursday of the month; 4pm-6pm;
The Sugar Hut, Brentwood High Street; contact Dan
Sayers, M J Bushell, 01277 245300, info@circle-net.co.uk

ebn Brentwood: every other Thursday (next meeting
22 March); 8am – 10am; George & Dragon, Mountnessing;
contact Hayley Taylor, Taylor Made Promotions, 01621
856504; membership and meeting charges apply

ebn Shenfield: every other Thursday (next meeting
13 March); 8am-10am; George & Dragon, Mountnessing;
contact Mandy Baker, Insight Coaching, 07946 377970;
membership and meeting charges apply

Word of Mouth: free networking once a month in
Brentwood. Phone 07533 988177

Round Robin Networking: Round Robin Networking;
Brentwood and Stock; The Robin pub, Ongar Road, 2nd
Wednesday of the month, 10.30am start, Harvard Inn
Stock, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10.30am start; contact
Paul.alexander@billericaywebservices.co.uk; 07557 797319

**The Chamber of Commerce cannot be held responsible
for the validity of the above information. Please confirm
before attending. Details of other groups or any updates
can be sent to Neil.Hornsby@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk**

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