



Building
Better
Business for
Brentwood

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter

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

April
2018

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newsletter



A message from your Chairman

Our calendar of events seems to be continually expanding, with more and more events being suggested for our members. Our primary objective with these events is to enable you, the members, to get to know each other better and discover ways in which you can work with other members to enhance your business.

We are trying several new types of event for the first time this year, which will enable us to see which are the most popular.

The next major event on the calendar is our AGM which, this year, is kindly being hosted by Sawyers Church. This is a free event and an opportunity for you to come and hear about what the Chamber has done over the past year, and about our exciting plans for the future.

As you may be aware, the Chamber is managed by a committee of volunteers, and the AGM is the time when we will be electing new committee members. If you would like to become a member of the committee, then please complete the form enclosed with this newsletter or click on this link to download the form brentwoodchambers.co.uk/ApplicationForm For more details, see page 2.

This will be our third summer of the popular Netwalking events and the first walk will be on Wednesday 23rd May in Childerditch, meeting at The Greyhound pub. We are now finally ready to offer sponsorship packages for our Summer Barbecue at Orsett Hall Hotel on Wednesday 4th July. I hope to see you soon at one of our events.

Colin Barber, Chairman



Nominations for the Brentwood Business Awards open on 10 April

Companies and charities based in the Borough are encouraged to enter the Brentwood Business Awards, which will launch on 10 April. Sponsored by Pinney Talfourd, the awards will celebrate the best of local businesses in a variety of categories.

Online nominations will be accepted until 30 June, followed by shortlisting and judging throughout July and August. Finalists will be announced in September and the winners revealed in a black tie ceremony on 9 November at the Mount Avenue Banqueting Suites.

Working with our media partner, Phoenix FM, we will be promoting and publicising the Awards' sponsors and finalists from April to November.



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CICM east of England – advice about credit and collections

‘CICM East of England’ is a branch of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management (CICM) – the largest recognised professional body in the world for the credit management community.

Formed over 75 years ago – and gaining its Royal Charter in 2014 – as the trusted leader and expert, it represents all areas of credit and collections, giving members support, resources, advice, career development and a networking community.

We offer training and qualifications to equip members with the professional skills needed at every stage in their career. We also help organisations of all sizes manage credit and maximise cash collection efficiently and professionally.

Credit Management magazine promotes professionalism and best practice and our CICMQ quality accreditation scheme recognises outstanding organisations. We influence government policy and direction, and collaborate with other business organisations including Chambers of Commerce. We wrote the CICM Managing Cashflow Guides and we manage the Prompt Payment Code for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Manned by volunteers, the Branch, based in Essex, covers Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. We hold free-to-attend conferences and are looking to work closer with Brentwood Chamber of Commerce.



Chartered
Institute
of Credit
Management

Brentwood Chamber members who want to know more about how the CICM can help them can visit www.cicm.com or contact Richard Brown (Branch Chairman) or Carol Baker (Branch Secretary) at eastofenglandbranch@cicm.com

New committee members wanted

The Chamber of Commerce is managed by a committee, which meets for two hours once a month on a Thursday evening. Our committee members, who are drawn from a diverse range of business and organisations, contribute significantly to the success of the Chamber.

As our Chairman has said in his message on page 1 of this newsletter, we're hoping to appoint some new committee members at our AGM in May.

Being a committee member will give you a deeper insight into the business community and is also an excellent opportunity to make many new contacts for you and your organisation. Committee membership also gives you the chance to contribute to the future direction of the Chamber and its role in Brentwood's business life.

If you would like to be considered for a place on the committee, please complete and return the form enclosed with this newsletter to the office by 27 April. Go to ***Executive Committee Member Application Form*** to download the form. If you would like to find out more about what is involved, then please contact one of the committee members.



Netwalking dates

The Chamber's innovative Netwalking events start again next month. Enjoy a walk with the chance to chat to and casually network with like-minded businesspeople. The walks are likely to end up in a country pub! Dogs are welcome and the events are free (just register in advance on the Chamber website). This year's Netwalking dates are: Wednesday 23 May, Monday 25 June, Tuesday 24 July and Thursday 23 August.

Newsletter design: JD Designs
www.jddesigns.co.uk

Newsletter editor: Philippa Barr
www.sunsigncommunications.co.uk

Ignite – all about your April business breakfast sponsors

Who are ignite?

Ignite Business Communications are a leading provider of Business to Business Communications, offering a range of Connectivity Solutions, Telephony Products and Managed Services to businesses of all sizes.

From an office phone system running ISDN to the multi-site MPLS network connected via fibre leased line, Ignite offers end-to-end solution management, recommending only industry leading products and tier-1 network operators, backed with outstanding customer service and support.



Why choose ignite?

The telecoms sector is a crowded market place, in which many UK businesses are confused over who is ultimately responsible for driving growth and maintaining service levels. In this fragmented environment, customers choose Ignite to deliver an end-to-end solution with one single point of contact.

When you partner with Ignite, you'll benefit from our aggregated annual spend with the industry's top providers. We guarantee the most competitive rates available and service levels that cannot be achieved when dealing direct.

Every new client is assigned a dedicated Ignite Consultant to help monitor current services and provide guidance for the future. What's more, our engineers speak plain English and are technically certified by the vendors we represent, which is why we can deliver the best support and highest service levels you've ever experienced.

The benefits of partnering with us

- End-to-end solutions with one single point of contact and ownership
- Industry-leading solutions and tier 1 network operators
- The most competitive rates available
- Fast support and high service levels from in-house technical team

Our services

- All manner of Business telephony solutions that are designed specifically to your company needs, including On Premise PBX, Hosted, Fixed Lines & Calls, SIP, Call Recording & Reporting, Inbound/Non-Geographic
- Mobile phone packages to suit your workforce – we partner with both Vodafone & O2 giving your business flexibility and choice
- Connectivity – ADSL, FTTC, Leased Lines etc
- Managed services, including Firewall, Email Filtering, Disaster Recovery, Hosting & Colocation & Cloud Services
- Full IT Support from our sister company Utilize Plc
- Finance Management with Sage

Free services

We offer a free 'BUSINESS COMMS HEALTH CHECK' to determine if we can indeed help to streamline your communications and save your Business money. We prefer to visit your offices to discuss face-to-face everything your business requires and bespoke packages to suit your individual business needs. However, you are always welcome to visit us; this would give you the opportunity to view our Disaster Recovery Suite and meet the faces behind the names.



Chamber Events Calendar 2018

More information can be found on the Chamber website

April

Friday 13th - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Ignite Business Communications

Wednesday 25th - "Taste of Brentwood Beer";

Sponsored by Handelsbanken

May

Friday 11th - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by St Francis Hospice

Thursday 17th - AGM and Open Evening

Wednesday 23rd - Netwalking

Sunday 27th - Essex CCC v Surrey CCC

A box at the one day 50-over match, Chelmsford

June

Friday 8th - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Pinney Talfourd

Monday 25th - Netwalking

July

Wednesday 4th - Barbecue at Orsett Hall

Friday 13th - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Howe Chartered Surveyors

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 Queens Theatre

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 (except for March, when it is Thursday 29th); 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 5 April); 8am – 10am; George & Dragon, Mountnessing; contact Hayley Taylor, Taylor Made Promotions, 01621 856504; membership and meeting charges apply

ebn Shenfield: every other Tuesday (next meeting 10 April); 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: 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 Phoenix Family: Second Thursday of each month; 12 - 2pm; Shenfield Cricket Club, 22a Chelmsford Rd, Shenfield, CM15 8RQ; contact Steve Roach, Phoenix FM, sr@phoenixfm.com; £15 per person will include a chilli & rice or curry & rice, or a vegan curry, plus hot drinks; payment in advance for catering purposes

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

Calling all musicians

The Chamber will be holding its annual barbecue at Orsett Hall on Wednesday 4 July from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We're looking for a group of local musicians to enhance our evening as guests arrive and mingle in the grounds. It's a great opportunity for you to promote yourselves and showcase your talents for a couple of hours at this prestigious venue. If you are interested, please email the Chamber Office, info@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk, giving us your details and telling us the type of music you play. If you know someone who might be interested, please feel free to pass on this request.

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

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