



BRENTWOOD Chamber of Commerce

Bringing you the latest business news from Brentwood

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

As we look forward at the start of the New Year, I thought it would be a good time to look back and reflect on how 2018 went for the Chamber of Commerce.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the inaugural Chamber of Commerce Brentwood Business Awards, which proved to be a tremendous success.

We spent two years planning and preparing for the Awards, and plans are now underway for the 2019 Awards (see more news inside).

With the benefit of all the feedback we have received from last year's Awards, 2019 promises to be even better!

The other highlight of 2018 has been the growing popularity of our monthly Business Breakfast. We have sponsors already in place for most months in 2019, which emphasises the fact that members - such as Kinetic Podiatry Clinic last month - see it as an excellent means of promoting their business to fellow members.

Also for the past few months the Breakfast has been fully booked well in advance, meaning that some members have not been able to attend. This is a good position to be in, but we are looking at various options to ensure that everyone who wants to attend is able to do so.

Moving into 2019, we have plans to increase the number of services and events on offer to members.

This will of course involve more work for the committee members, who are all volunteers. So if you would like to become involved by joining the committee, then please do get in touch and let us know.

Can I finish by wishing you all a very Happy New Year!
Colin Barber, Chairman



Neil McAllister of Kinetic Podiatry Clinic, sponsors of the final business breakfast of 2018 last month, which was yet another sell-out at Marygreen Manor



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Holiday Inn Brentwood announced a new partnership with celebrity chef and restaurateur Marco Pierre White and opened a Marco's New York Italian in late 2018

Holiday Inn's new restaurant serves up members with A Taste of New York

The Holiday Inn in Brentwood recently relaunched their restaurant as Marco's New York Italian. And they have kindly invited Chamber members to come along and sample their exciting new menu.

We have organised an evening event on Monday January 28, at the start of which there will be a chance for some informal networking at the bar. That will be followed by a two-course meal with a selection of dishes to choose from. The event will begin at 6.30pm, and is expected to run until around 10pm.

The meal is free of charge, with a choice of four mains and four desserts. There will be a £5 members ticket fee for the night to include a drink with your meal.

But please note that A Taste of New York tickets are only available to those members who have paid their 2019 subscriptions.

Tickets will also be sold to non-members for £15, from January 14, if capacity remains. There is a maximum attendance of 30 on the night, so make sure you book your ticket online quickly - having paid your 2019 membership subscription!

The four main courses to choose from will be:

- Great American Burger
- Chicago Hot Dog
- Pizza (Portobello Mushroom, Pancetta, Bacon, Mozzarella)
- Macaroni Cheese with wild mushroom and poached egg

And the four desserts you'll have to make a hard choice from will be:

- Chicago Hot Chocolate Brownie
- Great American Cheesecake
- Banoffee Pie
- Ice Cream

To book tickets please go to brentwoodchambers.co.uk/events

Chef Marco Pierre White tells us what diners can expect from the first New York Italian in Essex

"This brand new New York Italian is perfect for Brentwood. It represents friendly, casual dining and reflects the area in which it is located.

"It will give the people of the area a great new place to go out and eat where good food is served in a friendly, bustling atmosphere.

"The menu offers a fresh alternative, where authentic, uncomplicated food is served promptly and I think is what the people of the town want. We want groups of friends and couples to come in to enjoy lunch or dinner or to celebrate a special occasion."

What is the atmosphere of a Marco's New York Italian?

"The New York Italian has been inspired by my Italian heritage and love for New York. It reflects the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple as well as my passion for classic, simple and authentic food.

"Customers can look forward to enjoying a mix of Italian-inspired dishes and American classics from a menu created by myself while feeling they've been transported to the diners of New York."

What's your favourite menu dish?

"It depends on the occasion and time of day. The pizzas for example are based on the northern Italian style which are crusty and have a thin base. The whole idea is that you hold the crust to eat the food and then get rid of it.

"The main thing is as long as the service is attentive and not overbearing, the atmosphere is fun and relaxing and the food is good, then we've achieved what we set out to do - and that's giving people a great lunchtime or evening out."

Another 11 applications approved as membership rises again into the New Year

The Chamber's executive committee welcomed another throng of membership applications at December's meeting. Here's some information on those joining the fold at the start of 2019.

Guided Learning is based in Brentwood, offering English, Maths, and ICT training/tutoring for children and adults; aiming to be personalised, confidence boosting and resilience building through 1-2-1 or small group learning. They provide coaching and proven strategies for enhancing well-being in the workplace, for individuals and young people.

Dr Simi Medical Aesthetics is a Hornchurch skincare and anti-ageing clinic specialising in medical grade skincare products and treatments, LED light therapy for skin rejuvenation, microneedling, anti-wrinkle and dermal filler treatments. The clinic treats skin conditions including acne, rosacea, pigmentation, scarring and signs of ageing.

Greenhouse Marketing is a marketing focused graphic design agency based in Romford. If you need a logo, a new brand image, brochure, leaflet, website, advertising, video, exhibition displays or anything that communicates about your business or organisation, Greenhouse can help.

Delta Engineering Recruitment is "Returning the Human Touch back into

Recruitment" from its Brentwood base, helping with your staffing needs in sectors such as professional, backroom staffing, white & blue collar workers, and health.

Heavenly Soles is based in Dagenham and looks to bring professional quality reflexology treatment to the people of Brentwood and surrounding area, to help to de-stress & sleep better, in the comfort of your own home or workplace - helping you to achieve a happier outlook and better life satisfaction, by allowing you to be in charge of your own health.

The Rotary Club of Brentwood was established in 1932 and is a Registered Charity, raising funds through various projects during the year such as Christmas collections (Santa and Sleigh), a concert, monthly quizzes, a charity golf day - all used to arrange events such as trips to Legoland and pantomime for children with special needs, and much more besides.

Thomas Yorke is a Bishops Stortford business providing private investigation and security services throughout the UK - gathering information, intelligence, and evidence to support individuals and organisations, including solicitors and HR professionals.

Home Interiors By Anscombs is based in Hornchurch, specialising in designing, manufacturing and fitting

beautiful kitchens of outstanding quality. They offer a wide range of kitchen designs for customers to choose from, during a free home design visit, that their kitchen fitters can install.

Quest Printing and Design is based in Brentwood, with over 30 years of experience. Whether you require a short run digital print brochure, large run full colour litho booklet or a bespoke foiled and embossed corporate event invitation, their team of highly experienced print experts ensure your project is complete on time and to the highest possible standards.

Sandler Training train people to sell. They work with small businesses, normally where the owner manager is multitasking, with one of his or her main responsibilities being sales. Their mission is to show as many people as possible how to sell with less stress and wasted effort. Based in Ongar, they hold training sessions in Chelmsford.

Hillview Technologies are based in Wickford and believe technology should boost your business, not stand in the way. They work with clients to identify technology needs, put them in place and provide ongoing support - covering everything technology, so you can focus on everything else.



2019 subscriptions due for payment now

The Chamber's office manager Caroline Judd and Treasurer, Peter Clements, were very busy at the end of 2018 drawing up and sending out all the membership subscription invoices for 2019.

All members should have received one by now. And we would ask you to pay your subscription fee as soon as possible please (although ideally not with a pile of pound coins!).

Swift payment makes the admin and finance job a lot easier. And also saves Neil Hornsby from spending a lot of Member Services time in the early part of the year checking that non-renewed members have received their invoices okay and are in the process of paying.

Elsewhere, the Chamber has taken on board the feedback received about the 2018 Business Awards - at recent Business Breakfasts and direct from sponsors, participants and dinner attendees - and is already into planning the 2019 event.

An Awards sub-committee has been formed to provide direction, and support to Paul Gulley and Caroline Judd in organising what we are sure will be an even bigger and better event later this year.

If you have any thoughts on Awards categories, sponsorship, the nominations and judging process, or the Awards dinner, please get in touch and let us know as soon as possible.

Share your views on new M25 junction

Businesses in Brentwood have a few weeks left to submit their thoughts on the proposed plan for the new Junction 28 on the M25 west of the town.

Highways England have published their proposals for improvements to the junction at the Brook Street Roundabout following their previous consultation in January 2017, and the announcement of their Preferred Route that August.

Since then they have developed the proposals and now want feedback about the scheme. A statutory consultation started in early December and runs through to Monday January 28.

If you are not familiar with the plans for access to and from the M25 from the A12 and A1023, but want to see how they might affect your business or personal life in Brentwood, there is plenty of information on the Highways England website.

Visit them at highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-junction-28-statutory-consultation to view their brochure and questionnaire.

Chamber Events Calendar 2019

January

Thursday 10 - Executive Committee meeting

Friday 11 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Brentwood Cricket Club

Monday 28 - A Taste of New York

February

Thursday 7 - Executive Committee meeting

Friday 8 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Mullis & Peake

March

Tuesday 5 - Meet The Neighbours

Hosted by Stansted Airport Chamber

Friday 8 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Aching Arms

Thursday 14 - Executive Committee meeting

April

Thursday 11 - Executive Committee meeting

Friday 12 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital

May

Thursday 9 - Executive Committee meeting

Friday 10 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Mellow Moments

June

Thursday 13 - Executive Committee meeting

Friday 14 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Tees incorporating Wortley Byers

See brentwoodchambers.co.uk/events for latest updates and online ticketing.

Networking groups in the Brentwood area this month

We hope you attend and enjoy many of our regular Chamber events for your business networking. But the Chamber is also pleased to bring you details of other groups in the Brentwood area by occasionally running this networking list.

To add details of your networking group or any event updates please email us at Neil.Hornsby@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk

Biz'ee Women: next meeting Monday Jan 28, 9:45am-12pm; De Rougemont Manor, Great Warley Street; contact Liz Smith, 07780 682428; www.bizeewomen.co.uk/brentwood

Brentwood Business Network: fortnightly Thursday, 8am-9.30am, next on Jan 17; The Lot Bar & Restaurant, 71-75 Hutton Road, Shenfield; £15 includes choice of breakfast; www.brentwoodbusiness.network

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

The Circle: 3rd Thursday of the month, 4.30pm (next event in February); The Teriss Bar, Brentwood; contact Dan Sayers, M J Bushell, 01277 245300, info@circle-net.co.uk

Birkett Long make double appointment

Law firm Birkett Long has announced the appointment of Perdeep Grewal (pictured right) as a solicitor in its Chelmsford office, and of Veronika Koenig-Roach as a solicitor in its Basildon office.



Perdeep Grewal

Veronika advises on commercial and corporate law, but will also be specialising in technology and IP law. She has substantial experience in company law, equity capital markets and public offerings, financial regulation and investigation, with a focus on broad cross-border transactions involving start-ups, early stage and growth companies.

"As a corporate lawyer, I enjoy the constant challenge, varied type of work and being able to help navigate other business professionals and entrepreneurs through the legal matrix," said Veronika.

A construction and dispute resolution specialist, Perdeep advises shareholders, directors and SMEs on shareholder disputes, debt recovery matters, professional negligence claims and commercial contract disputes.

He is also part of the multidisciplinary construction team and advises developers, contractors and subcontractors on all types of construction disputes including payment issues, defects and professional negligence claims.

"As a litigator, no two days are ever the same. I provide commercial and practical advice to my clients on the best way to resolve disputes. My services are always tailored to the particular needs of each client. I tackle cases with diligence and employ a strategic approach in litigation and settlement discussions," said Perdeep.

"Birkett Long is a well-established, ambitious and dynamic law firm. What appealed to me about them was the strength of the dispute resolution team across Essex, and the high calibre of the solicitors who are specialists within their chosen fields. It is an exciting time for the firm as it continues to grow."

ebn Brentwood: every other Thursday, 8am-10am; George & Dragon, Mountnessing; contact Hayley Taylor, Taylor Made Promotions, 01621 856504; membership and meeting charges apply.

ebn Shenfield: every other Tuesday, 8am-10am; George & Dragon, Mountnessing; contact Mandy Baker, Insight Coaching, 07946 377970; membership and meeting charges apply.

The Phoenix Family: events held at Shenfield Cricket Club, 22a Chelmsford Road, Shenfield CM15 8RQ; contact Steve Roach, Phoenix FM, sr@phoenixfm.com; twitter.com/thePhoenixfam

Round Robin Networking: Brentwood and Stock; The Robin, Ongar Road, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10.30am-12pm; Harvard Inn, Stock, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10.30am-12pm. Contact Paul Alexander 07557 797319; roundrobinnetworking.co.uk

Word of Mouth, Brentwood: free networking on 4th Tuesday of the month, 11am; Slug & Lettuce, Brentwood High Street; contact Khatija Karim; facebook.com/Word-of-Mouth-Brentwood-215188658649627

The Chamber cannot be held responsible for the validity of the information - please confirm with the group contact before attending.