



BRENTWOOD

Chamber of Commerce

Bringing you the latest business news from Brentwood

Business Awards 2019 launched and we're ready for your entries

The Brentwood Business Awards 2019 is up and running - with the entry forms all launched now on the Chamber website, ready for you to start entering your chosen Categories.

We're delighted to announce that Pinney Talfourd Solicitors are back on board as Overall Awards Partner again in 2019 - as are Phoenix FM as Official Media Partner.

And while we have several returning Category Sponsors too from 2018 - Rainer Hughes Solicitors, Ardleigh Green Janitorial Services, Bennetts Funeral Directors, and Tees incorporating Wortley Byers (following the January merger of Wortley Byers and Tees) - we also welcome several new Sponsors.

Chamber itself is sponsoring Growing Business of the Year, Eye Bray and Legal Mediation are jointly sponsoring the Start-Up Business of the Year category, Bretts Business Recovery sponsor Best Sales and Marketing - and Ignite Business Communications, who were named as Brentwood Business of the Year in 2018, are sponsoring Small to Medium Business of the Year.

As per 2018, all of the application process will take place via the Chamber website at brentwoodchambers.co.uk/business-awards - where you can read an outline of each Award Category, and enter your chosen ones online.

As a change from 2018, we have reduced the qualifying period for Small to Medium Business of the Year from three years trading to two years trading, and the new Start-up Business of the Year category has been designed for sole traders or businesses that started trading in 2018 or later.

Please note that we are also limiting the amount of categories that any organisation can enter in 2019 to two, rather than free entry across the board as per 2018. So choose your two categories carefully!

As you will have seen in previous Newsletters, the Awards nomination and judging process will culminate in a black tie awards dinner held at Orsett Hall Hotel on Friday November 8; with the full Awards timeline through 2019 being:



**Overall Awards Partner and sponsor of
Brentwood Business of the Year**



Official Media Partner



- April - Nominations open
- May - Nominations open
- June 30 - Nominations close
- Early July - Category shortlisting
- Late July-August - Category judging
- September - Category Finalists announced
- November 8 - Business Awards Dinner 2019

We'll be publishing full details of the gala dinner, and ticket sales information, in due course via the Newsletter and our social media channels.

And we know you'll all want to be present as Pinney Talfourd name the Brentwood Business of the Year 2019 at the end of the night's proceedings.

You can turn to Page 2 for a full list of the eight 2019 categories and their sponsors. And we look forward to receiving your entries soon!

BEST SALES AND MARKETING

Sponsored by



BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by



NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by



EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by



SMALL TO MEDIUM BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by



START-UP BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by



BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

Sponsored by



GROWING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by



Enter the Awards now at brentwoodchambers.co.uk/business-awards

HR Dept venture marks new direction on career journey for Amanda

Human resources specialist Amanda Russell, who has spent more than 25 years honing her expertise, has set up a business serving local small and medium-sized businesses.

It's the realisation of a long-held desire for Amanda, who has launched The HR Dept Brentwood and Billericay to provide HR advice and support to SMEs in the area - and became a new Chamber member this year.

Based out of offices in Great Warley, the new venture marks the culmination of a significant career in HR for Amanda, who has worked in a wide variety of roles for organisations around the south east.

Her journey has taken her through sectors including manufacturing, health care, pharmaceutical, construction and media - working on varied projects from start-ups,

restructuring, resourcing, training and managing change.

Now, after many years of professional corporate life, she is looking forward to working in a purely hands-on role, helping local business owners negotiate the minefield of employment legislation in an increasingly litigious environment.

"This is something I've been thinking about doing for a few years now," she said. "I'm excited to take the plunge out of corporate HR and into an SME environment where I really feel I can take the broad knowledge I have gained over the years and apply it in a practical, and pragmatic way.

"Over the years the work I've enjoyed most has been working with start-ups and in turnarounds, because they tend to be smaller companies and the work is more hands on.

"So I'm looking forward to be doing purely the work that I find most satisfying."

She added: "Being able to get involved in my local business community is really motivating for me.



"All business owners are facing the challenges of adapting to a rapidly-changing employment law landscape, so having expert advice on hand will be invaluable for them."

The HR Dept Brentwood and Billericay is part of an international company with a network of 75 franchisees providing services in 112 territories in the UK, Ireland and Australia.

To find out more and contact Amanda visit hrdept.co.uk/licensees/brentwood-billerica

Six more members approved to join

Among our new members this month is **Leanne Perilly**, a make-up artist specialising in bridal and special occasions, who loves working with people of all ages to educate and expand their knowledge in the world of beauty.

Tropicmychan is a Guild qualified beauty therapist and a Tropic skincare ambassador, with a passion to share and educate everyone about natural, greener and toxins-free beauty choices.

Thompson Hughes Essex Accountants are a technology driven and focused practice, aiming to help clients spend less time worrying about the finances and reporting so that they can drive their business to greater success.

Jolly Good Scents is an Independent Scentsy Consultant, introducing clients to the new way forward in home fragrance. All their wax and essential oils are non-toxic - with nothing harmful, just beautiful home decor accessories and fragrances.

Liberty Executive Services provides professional secretarial, administration and back-office management solutions - working as a Virtual PA for businesses of all sizes and providing a flexible alternative to managing admin in-house.

Community Charity Fund of Brentwood is fundraising for small local charities through public events, making grants to individuals and emerging organisations - and helping people fulfil their ambitions for self-development and service to the community.

New opening partnership

Chamber member Beresfords have announced a three-year partnership with Essex County Cricket Club - and the opening of the Beresfords Stand at The Cloud FM County Ground in Chelmsford.

Paul Beresford, CEO, said: "I am delighted to announce the new partnership with Essex Cricket.

"We have been involved with the Club for a number of years, however this year we have decided to take it a step further and develop the partnership by sponsoring a stand.

Darrell Fox, Commercial Manager at Essex Cricket, said: "We're looking to achieve big things over the next few years and we're delighted Beresfords are going to part of that journey."

Are you letting customers down when it comes to keeping data safe?

When you make a payment by credit or debit card, do you think about how secure your payment is? Is your identity being stolen? Is your payment actually going to who you think it is?

And whose responsibility is it to keep your bank details safe? Is it the bank, the card company or the shop? And would you use that shop again if you discovered that they were being careless with your payment data?

As small business owners we put ourselves forward as trusted experts, but are we letting our customers down? According to research

by IXCG, over 60 per cent of Brentwood small businesses are doing just that.

The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard is a strict set of rules which require merchants to install and regularly test a set of security systems, critical to keep customers' data safe.

Merchants can only accept card payments if they agree to follow these rules implicitly, and failure to do so can result in large fines and even the withdrawal of card processing facilities.

However, many Brentwood small businesses seem to be ignoring these, placing their customers' data at risk, and their business at risk.

Being compliant with the PCI DSS is not expensive (it can cost as little as £60 per month). And all compliant businesses should be able to provide you with their last PCI DSS self-assessment report.

If they are unable to, then it is your choice whether you risk your personal or business data by trading with them, or choose another business to trade with.

Chamber Events Calendar 2019

May

Friday 10 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Mellow Moments

Thursday 16 - Chamber Open Meeting & AGM

Brentwood Cricket Club, Shenfield Road

Tuesday 21 - Meet The Members networking event

Ashwells Reclaimed Timber, Bulphan

June

Monday 3 - Netwalking (location TBC)

Friday 14 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Tees incorporating Wortley Byers

Mon/Tues 24/25 - Meet The Members networking event (TBC)

July

Wednesday 3 - Chamber Summer BBQ

Ashwells Country Club

Friday 12 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Howe Chartered Surveyors

Tuesday 23 - Meet The Members event on Self-Defence

Bennetts Funeral Directors, Brentwood

August

Friday 9 - Business Breakfast

Thursday 22 - Meet The Members open networking event (TBC)

September

Monday 2 - Netwalking (location TBC)

TBC - Brentwood Business Briefing

Tuesday 10 - Meet The Neighbours networking event

Novotel Stansted Airport

Friday 13 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Brentwood Borough Council

Thursday 19 - Business Planning workshop (Location TBC)

Mon/Tues 23/24 - Chamber visit (details to be arranged)

October

Friday 11 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Tees incorporating Wortley Byers

Mon/Tues 21/22 - Meet The Members networking event & financial seminar (TBC)

Thursday 31 - Brentwood Business Showcase

November

Friday 8 - Brentwood Business Awards 2019

Orsett Hall Hotel

Friday 15 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by KK Mobile Tyres

Wednesday 20 - Business Seminar & Workshop (TBC)

December

Friday 13 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Home Tuition Agency

Thursday 19 - Chamber Christmas Lunch

Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite

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

Remember, you can add your own member events to our website at brentwoodchambers.co.uk/add-member-event



Our April Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor was sponsored by Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital - we thank them for their support!

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