



# Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

February 2013

[www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

**Please note that an error was made on the annual invoices, requesting payment by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013; this should have read 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013.**

## Dear Member



I am sure we are all happy that the recent prolonged spell of bitter wintry weather is behind us, for the moment at least. As everyone remarks when it snows, it looks attractive, and is enjoyed by children (and skiers!). But the

longer it is with us, the consequences - closed schools, transport disruptions, grim effects on personal and business life - quickly leave us wanting to see the back of it.

I hope it did not have too detrimental an impact on your business. One familiar legacy is the dreaded potholes which appear on our road system after snow, adding to the hazards of driving. Essex Council have responsibility for repairing them but seem to take their time getting around to filling them in.

Our picture shows two substantial examples on the London Road, one of the busiest in the borough. This month we have one of our twice-yearly meetings with Council Leaders and the question of **potholes** is on the agenda. Our aim is to have them take up the matter with Essex Council urgently, before accidents start to happen.



Appropriately, we also expect to be asking the Leaders how **localism** is working in practice - not very well, some might argue, if Essex Council retain complete control over our highways, seemingly leaving Brentwood Council powerless to order priorities in its own domain. We will certainly aim to prompt them into asserting priorities for Brentwood from Essex Council.

Your Chamber is being consulted by the Council on one manifestation of Localism - they retain the traditional task of collecting business rates but, **under the Government's 2013/14 Financial Settlement, Brentwood Council will keep 50% of the business rates collected.** There will be many consequences flowing from this and we hope to learn more during the consultation process. We will keep you informed.

Our **Business Breakfast programme** is back in full swing. It is run for us by Chamber member Wortley Byers Solicitors and co-sponsored by MJ Bushell, FRP Advisory, NatWest Bank and Wortley Byers. The sponsors cover the cost of the meal so the breakfasts are free for attendees and are proving hugely popular. The March breakfast is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>. If events like these work for your business, I would suggest that you book in as soon as possible as they 'sell out' very quickly. See the back page of this Newsletter for details on how to book in.



Communication is of course key to business success, whether via person-to-person contact through networking events, such as the breakfasts, or through advertising. We are very happy to include information about your business in our **Member News** section. Send us a 250 word article and we'll be happy to print it - at no cost to you.

If you want to go further and **sponsor an entire edition of the Newsletter**, it will cost you just £100 - the cost of printing. Just look at the coverage this month's sponsor is enjoying. It could be you. **Please contact us to book an edition.**

**Mike Hawkins**  
Chief Executive

**This Newsletter is sponsored by:**



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## Our sponsors for this edition are:



*Lawyers for Business*

### **MJD Solicitors is a legal practice that specialises in providing commercially focussed legal advice to the business community.**

The firm was set up in July 2010 with the intent of providing clients with access to affordable results driven advice, supplied by senior solicitors with extensive experience of working within industry and commercial law firms.

In excess of 95% of our clients are commercial enterprises. As a general rule, we do not undertake work for individuals nor do we provide personal legal services, such as residential conveyancing, probate or family law. We are true business law experts and are founding members of the UK wide Association of Independent Business Lawyers.

The majority of our clients come from outside of the Brentwood area and specifically from Essex, Herts, Kent, Suffolk and London. Our work spans the construction, finance, property, medical, recruitment, communications and professional services sectors. Our business has grown off the back of repeat instructions and client referrals, and from our willingness to think outside of the box and provide bespoke funding solutions.

Our principal fee earners include:

**Matthew Dillon:-** qualified as a solicitor in 1997 and prior to establishing MJD Solicitors spent 9 years as senior in-house counsel with publically quoted companies working on high value contracts and disputes. Matthew's principal areas of work include commercial dispute resolution, construction law and commercial contracts. Matthew was educated and continues to live in Essex.

**Tony Philpott:-** qualified as both a solicitor and barrister, having been called to the bar in 1987. Tony worked as an in house lawyer to Bovis Lend Lease for 11 years and is a member of the chartered institute of arbitrators. Tony offers advice in commercial property, construction law and complex employment law issues involving age, race and sexual discrimination.

**Justin Patten:-** qualified as a solicitor in 1997 and practices in the field of employment law. Justin is an accredited mediator and a member of the academy of experts.

We do not offer free advice interviews as we believe this is little more than a gimmick with no real value. We do however offer a 90 minute consultation for £100 plus vat and are always happy to meet prospective clients, without charge and on a no obligation basis, to discuss whether MJD Solicitors is the right firm for their particular need.

For further information please contact Matthew Dillon on **01277 280761**.

## Member News

Alex Armstrong, Chairman Havering Chamber of Commerce asks  
**"Do you want to meet new Audiences and secure additional business?"**

Do you want to know more about an exciting new project in the Havering Area that could be good for your business! London Borough of Havering, Havering and Brentwood Chambers of Commerce & Essex Wildlife Trust invite you to a Business Networking event with a difference on **Tuesday 5th February, 4pm to 7pm** at Bedfords Park Visitor Centre, Broxhill Road, Harold Hill, Romford RM4 1QH. 01708 748646.



We are delighted to have secured the services of Lloyd Scott as our guest speaker (he completed the London Marathon in the diver's suit) who will be talking about his experiences, the inspiration for his charity work and his passion for Wildlife. You could use this opportunity to see Essex Wildlife Trust's visitor centre and learn more about Protecting wildlife for the future and the people of Essex. Buffet, tea and coffee will be provided. Tickets only £12.50 + VAT with all proceeds to Essex Wildlife Trust's Ingrebourne project. Places are limited so please rsvp via e-mail to [michelef@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:michelef@essexwt.org.uk) or phone 01621 862984

Essex  
Chambers of Commerce  
Leading the way

We will shortly be renewing our affiliate membership of Essex Chambers of Commerce, which means that all our members will have access to a range of benefits, as well as the support of their full time professional staff. As a reminder these benefits include:

- Members online Database
- In house online bi-monthly Business Magazine – E-Business Leader
- International Trade Support Discount for European Documents
- DHL 50% off Exporting
- Networking Events - over 120 networking opportunities. Breakfast and twilight events, exhibitions, Meet the Buyer events, training courses and Trade Seminars are just some of the events run each year.
- Chamber Merchant Services (Discounted card processing rates and added-value services)
- Discounts on room rental with videoing conferencing available, discount for members to use our boardroom and training room
- Business Voucher Codes (Member to Member Discount)
- Chamber AA Roadside Assistance 61% discount
- Representation & Lobbying at local, regional and national levels
- Tenderforce Contract. (Tendering made easier)
- Utility Options and Solutions(Green Chambers Energy Experts)
- Health and Safety Online
- Primary Health Plan (Westfield Health)
- HR Services Online
- Free Membership Logo available on request(Members and Affiliates Logo)
- Essex Libraries Business Information Service
- Free UK Credit Searches. European companies at just £17.00 + VAT(Essex Libraries Business Information Service)
- Sage Training Courses

### Coming soon

- Chamber Foreign Exchange (Money corp) Date of launch TBA
- New HR Product (Birkett Long and Practical HR) Date of launch 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013. Further information will be given in the March Newsletter.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Executive Committee Meeting Dates 2013

21<sup>st</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April, **16<sup>th</sup> May - AGM**, 20<sup>th</sup> June,  
18<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November

*If you have any issues you want to be raised at an Executive Committee meeting, please contact the Chamber office a week or so before the relevant meeting and we will put it on the agenda*

Email: [info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk](mailto:info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk)

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ NETWORKING EVENTS 2013 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

#### ★ Business Breakfast, 7.45am to 9.15am, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March ★

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR  
Complimentary event, to book a place please email [lrussell@wortleybyers.co.uk](mailto:lrussell@wortleybyers.co.uk)  
The next following breakfast will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### ★ Pint and a Chat, 7:00pm, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February ★

Brentwood Theatre Bar, Shenfield Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AG  
Members and non members welcome, no need to book, just turn up from 7:00pm,  
the first 10 people to arrive receive their first drink free!

### *Face to Face with Executive Committee member Steve Ackroyd*



Steve Ackroyd is a career banker and has worked for NatWest for 24 years. In that time, he has held a variety of roles and positions. When he first joined the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee in 2008, he was the Area Director responsible for a team of Managers dealing with Small Businesses in Brentwood and surrounding area. His current role is a Regional Deposits Manager for Commercial Banking covering the East Anglia Area.

Steve has lived in Brentwood with his wife and 2 children for the last 10 years. In his spare time, he enjoys playing 5 a side football, running, and watching most sports.

### *Sign Off*

Chamber Executive Committee members Laurie Edmonds (Local by Social) and David Miles (Divadani) have been giving a series of Social Media training courses to local retailers under the sponsorship of the Brentwood Renaissance Group and Chamber will be following up those by sponsoring 'plug-in' courses. Keep an eye out for further information.

I hope you are following us on **Twitter**. As I have remarked before, it is an increasingly important means of communication, keeping you in touch with what is going on. If you are not already a follower, why not become one? Follow us on Twitter @BwdChamber.

Mike Hawkins

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