



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

April 2013

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member



Chamber is pleased to be supporting **Brentwood in Bloom** again this year. Specifically, we are sponsoring the “**Best Kept Business Premises**” award. On page 3 of this Newsletter you will see an article on **Brentwood in Bloom**, which does so much to brighten up our town in the spring and summer months.

The article is by Chairman Jane Bennett (you may know her name as the MD of Bennetts Funeral Directors, a Chamber member). Jane is keen that other members of Chamber should support **Brentwood in Bloom** by, for example, entering the competition. If you are interested, contact them via jane@bennettsfunerals.co.uk

The next big event on Chamber's calendar is our **Annual Members Meeting and AGM**, to be hosted this year by **St Martins School on Thursday 16th May**. We have a very good programme lined up for you, including keynote speaker Denise Rossiter, CEO of Essex Chambers of Commerce (ECC). Denise will, I am sure, bring us all up-to-date with all the excellent work done by ECC on our behalf and remind us of the services they can provide direct to our members to help grow your businesses.

If you have been before, you will know that we keep the formal part of the evening to a minimum and devote most of it to offering good social/business networking opportunities for members. An excellent buffet will be provided by a caterer and wines/other refreshments by **Drinks of France**. All of this is free of charge by way of a thank-you to members for your support.

Not long after that event we will be holding our **Summer Barbeque** on **Thursday 11th July** (by then surely we will be enjoying high-summer temperatures!). This year we have been fortunate to secure the splendid venue of **Ingatestone Hall**. We will, as usual, have a distinguished panel to take the Q & A session, which remains a firm favourite with members. We have invited Secretary of State Rt Hon Eric Pickles to join the panel, as he has frequently done in the past, including last year.



Do make a note of it in your diaries and keep an eye out for opportunities to book in.

Other routine, but still exciting and successful networking events continue of course. First of all the highly acclaimed new **Business Breakfast** programme organised for us by Wortley Byers Solicitors every month (see back page for latest details); and the **Pint and a Chat** evenings which, though informal, are very effective for networking.

For those members who do not necessarily benefit from networking events, please remember that **we are happy to carry an article about your business under Members News** (see page 3) or mail out an insert/ advert about your business with a Newsletter – a free service for members. Or of course you can increase your profile considerably by **sponsoring a future edition**, just as Tariq Musaji has done this month for his Farrah Driver Training company.

Just get in touch with us and we can arrange it.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

This month's Newsletter is sponsored by:



Tariq Musaji

07903 997733

tariq.i.musaji@talk21.com

So you want to become a Driving Instructor?



Becoming a driving instructor is a rewarding career and you get to become your own boss. You can work around your commitments either part-time or take it full time. If you enjoy meeting people and teaching people new set of skills, then this is an ideal career opportunity.

However, it's not easy being an ADI. The general perception of the public is that an instructor has dual controls so it must be easy making a living. This is far from the truth. As an instructor you need:

- Excellent communications skills
- Able to plan ahead which requires your full concentration at all times.
- Being able to motivate your pupil to achieve their dream of passing a practical test. This requires coaching skills which sadly not many qualified ADI's have.

So what does it involve?

There are three parts to qualify as an ADI.

1. Part One: Your Knowledge of Theory and hazard perception test. The test lasts a maximum of 90 minutes and consists of 100 questions. This is then followed by a hazard perception test using a total of 14 video clips. The test costs £90.00 which is payable to the DSA.
2. Part Two: Your driving test. You will be expected to drive to a very high standard. You would be advised to take an advanced test with the Driving Instructor's Association. Details can be provided. The driving test needs to be taken in a manual car and will last for 1 hour. The maximum number of driving faults permitted will be six. Any more faults and you will not succeed. This is where the **Master ADI** can help you succeed. The test is expensive and is not cheap at £111.00 per attempt.
3. Part Three: This is your ability to demonstrate to the examiner that you have the skills and competence to deliver a driving lesson. The examiner will role play as a beginner and then as a novice driver or qualified driver in need of retraining. The test lasts for one hour.

Most candidates usually get through parts one and two but usually struggle at part three. The national pass rate for part three is between 25-35%. You will get a maximum of three attempts at part two and three. The theory examination has no restriction on the number of attempts.

Fail your part two or three 3 times and you will have to go back to the drawing board and start all over again. You have up to 2 years since passing your Theory to complete ALL your qualifying exams. This can be costly and most people give up as it requires time, commitment and financial outlay which are hard to come by in these austere times. Not forgetting the added stress.

There are plenty of Instructors or driving schools offering a cheap package and promise you the world. Be careful. Do your research. Never sign there and then. Take the paperwork with you and if you do not understand, seek help.



Tariq has his own driver training company. He is a Master Grade 6 Fleet ADI. This puts him in the top 5% of instructors in England and Wales. He also coaches qualified drivers into becoming safer and defensive drivers. He has written articles for Which? Consumer Watchdog and is a guest blogger on motoring websites.

Member News

HERONGATE WOOD

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & WOODLAND CEMETERY

beautiful setting provides a natural resting place for loved ones. No grave will ever be disturbed, you will truly 'rest in peace' forever.

This lasting legacy is for future generations to enjoy. There is an ancient woodland surrounding the cemetery; families are being laid to rest and native trees are being planted so that the whole area develops to become an extension of the existing woodland. This will encourage new wildlife to the area and create a larger haven for them

At Herongate Wood we can arrange a Burial, Cremation, Ashes Burial or Scattering of Ashes. We have our own Hall of Remembrance where un-hurried personalised Services can take place. You may have a religious or non-religious service, whatever is right for your loved one. After the Committal you may have a Granite Memorial Plaque placed; there are also no on-going maintenance fees.

You may also pre-book plots or take out a pre paid funeral plan. This helps to lift the burden from your family, as they will know that they are fulfilling your final wishes. It also fixes costs at today's prices.

Our kind and caring staff are on site Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm to answer any questions you may have. **Please call 01277 811064 or visit our website www.green-burial.co.uk**

Brentwood in Bloom 2013

As the Chairman of The Brentwood in Bloom Strategy Group I am delighted to acknowledge that Brentwood Chamber of Commerce are kindly sponsoring 'The Best Kept Business Premises' again. The competition is being organised differently this year in the expectation of making more businesses aware of the award and how to enter.

We hope you will support this year's competition and you can obtain an entry form with the relevant details and criteria by contacting me on 01277 265167 or email jane@bennettsfunerals.co.uk I need your entry forms by 7th June and judging will take place w/c 24th June, with the presentation taking place in the Town Hall on 12th July. If you would like to become involved with the group or to become a sponsor please contact me.

Jane Bennett – Chairman, Brentwood in Bloom Strategy Group.

Tomorrow's Technology Available Today!



Network Upgrades

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Upgrading your network can increase the working efficiency of your organisation. CAT5e, CAT6, Office Moves, Wireless, Fibre, Switches, Digital Interactive Whiteboards, CCTV

Is your phone system working properly for you?

A modern phone system will always achieve maximum efficiency. We can service most makes of phone system or supply you with a new one. Keeping abreast with the latest technology.

Do you spend too much on your calls?

Most businesses dismiss their phone bill as a high but necessary overhead without investigating how it could be reduced. By using wholesale methods and efficient routing, simplified bills, calls can be reduced and at a glance you can see how much you are paying and why you are paying it.

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CK Communications believe that we have a unique blend of Technicians and Engineers combined with authorised service partners. Enabling us to be flexible and providing our valued clients with unparalleled experience and expertise. This total approach to service gives our clients the assurance that regardless of the nature of their enquiry CK Communications have the expertise and resources to react promptly and positively.

**Enquiries: - Please call Colin at CK Communications on 07770 608308 Email:- specialist@ckcomms.com
Please quote **CHAMBER** for your discount**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates 2013

18th April, **16th May – Annual Members Meeting**, 20th June, 18th July,
19th September, 17th October and 21st 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

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

★ Business Breakfast, 7.45am to 9.15am, Wednesday 1st May ★

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR
Complimentary event, to book a place please email lrussell@wortleybyers.co.uk
The next following breakfast will be on Wednesday 5th June

★ Pint and a Chat, 7:00pm, Friday 12th April ★

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!

Future events, details on our website: Annual Members Meeting & AGM 16th May, Annual Summer BBQ 11th July, Open Evening 14th November & Christmas Lunch 12th December



Face to Face with Executive Committee member Laurie Edmonds

Laurie Edmonds founded Local By Social Ltd in 2011. Specialising in helping Brentwood businesses to engage with community using social media, Local By Social offers one-to-one and group Facebook, Twitter and blogging training courses. On behalf of clients, the company also produces regular Mailchimp email newsletters, creates WordPress-based websites and manages online ticketing for small and large events. Local By Social was runner up in the *Excellence in Marketing* category of the 2012 Essex Business Excellence Awards.

Laurie enjoys 'real life' social networking through the monthly Brentwood Tweetup (@brentwoodtweetup), which she co-founded with the Brentwood Gazette in the summer of 2011. She is also a governor at Holly Trees Primary School, a member of The Brentwood Belles WI and the French and German town twinning associations, and volunteers at Brentwood Theatre. In her spare time, Laurie enjoys reading, walking her miniature schnauzer, and, of course, using Facebook and Twitter!

Sign Off

We very much hope to see you at our **Annual Members Meeting on 16th May at St Martins School**, which incorporates an AGM (see notice of the AGM included with this Newsletter). You will also see that we have finally had to act after 7 years of no increases in members' fees by putting forward a resolution for a small increase. Our reserves are running lower and we have started to make a loss, so the time is right to address that situation. We hope you will understand and support our proposal. Above all we value your continued membership and **look forward to seeing you on 16th May at St. Martins School.**

Mike Hawkins

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Pepperell House, 44 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AJ
info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk | www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk | 01277 214814



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