

New lunch format kicks off in 2020 as we boost the events calendar

New for the new year, next month will see the launch of our Meet and Eat lunchtime networking event, as we seek to broaden the variety of events on offer to the Chamber's constantly expanding membership.

Our first lunch event will be held on Tuesday February 4 between 12.30-2.30pm at The Teriss Bar in Hart Street. This will take the form of a buffet lunch, which will enable members to interact and mingle with fellow attendees, removing time restraints as they can come and go as business demands.

The lunch will be sponsored by Darren Jones of UK Energy Management Ltd, who will be celebrating 10 years in operation and providing us with an insight into his business.

He works with businesses to help cut cost and carbon, and be compliant with energy legislation - providing an independent review into utilities, working with you to save on your bills.

Reflecting on 2019, Chamber events coordinator Sally Sykes said: "Events held by the Chamber proved to be very successful last year. We increased capacity at the monthly breakfasts to cater for 56, and these have been filled monthly.

"Meet the Members events have proved to be very popular, and we would like to thank all those members that have hosted these events.

"Lots of business collaborations have been made and business transacted across the spectrum of our business categories."

All this year's Business Breakfasts have sponsors already, and Meet the Members hosts lined up. "Due to this we will be holding two Meet the Members some months going forward as there is a waiting list to host these events," explained Sally.

All events are promoted and booked via brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events - but be mindful these do get filled up fast, so please keep reviewing the events page, follow our social channels, and sign up for our emails.



The Teriss Bar in Hart Street will host our first Meet and Eat event

"Remember, lots of events are being planned so we look forward to seeing you at one during 2020," added Sally. "If you know other businesses who would be interested please bring them along. The more the merrier as there's lots of networking opportunities.

"On the other hand if you would like to host, or have any ideas for future events, please contact me on sally.sykes@brentwoodchamber.co.uk."

Get social again with workshops galore!

If you managed to get a place on one of the social media workshops run for Chamber by 24 fingers during 2019, you'll be pleased to hear that we have a whole new series lined up in 2020.

We hope there's something on this year's schedule that takes your fancy, under the expert tutelage of Emma Goode.

They kick off this month with one on a general theme of using your social footprint to find new customers and sell them your goods and services, taking place on January 17.

All are bookable at the time via brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events.

- Jan 17 - How to Target, Engage & Sell Using Social Media
- Feb 27 - How to Maximise The Power of Your LinkedIn Profile
- Mar 20 - Blogging for more Business
- April 24 - Using Facebook to get more business
- May 15 - How to Easily Create Eye-Catching Images and Video for Your Social Media
- June 19 - How to Build a High Converting Sales Funnel
- Sept 18 - How to run an engaging Instagram Profile
- Oct 16 - How to Use Instagram Stories
- Nov 6 - Give yourself the Gift of New Customers this Christmas - How to Run a Highly Effective Marketing Campaign

Xero hour for invoices

Members have hopefully noticed something different dropping into their inboxes towards the end of 2019, thanks to Chamber's introduction of a new accounting system.

Chamber has adopted Xero software as our new accounting tool, allowing us to be far more efficient in sending out and processing member payments, among many other things.

All 2020 membership invoices have gone out via Xero, so the email invoice everyone has received is a genuine communication - and should be paid by your normal preferred method as soon as possible.

Also check junk folders to make sure it isn't in there. And if in doubt contact the Chamber office on info@brentwoodchamber.co.uk.

Chamber's Executive Committee needs you... - get stuck in and help continue the success

As you are probably aware, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce is run by an Executive Committee, entirely made up of volunteers. And we are keen to receive expressions of interest from potential new Committee members this year!

The Committee consists of:

- Elected officers: chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, honorary solicitor
- 12 elected members
- A number of co-opted members

Members are elected to the Executive Committee at the AGM in May. The 12 elected members serve a three-year term, with one-third being elected/re-elected annually.

Meetings of the Executive take place in the Borough in the early evening, usually on the second Thursday of the month. Sub-committees are formed where necessary - such as for the Brentwood Business Awards - to drive through particular projects.

As Chamber grows in membership - it has doubled in size recently and stood fractionally under 300 members going into 2020 - new member offerings are being put in place and more events are taking place.

This means, however, that there are many more jobs to be undertaken, so we need Committee members who are prepared to join in and 'get their hands dirty'.

Could you bring your expertise and skills to discussion and decision-making to help to promote Chamber? Or do you have a specific interest you think might be helpful?

Formal application forms will be made available via our website ahead of the AGM, but meanwhile why not contact chairman Colin Barber - on colin.barber@brentwoodchamber.co.uk - to find out what is involved. Or ask any member of the Executive Committee that you meet at a forthcoming Chamber event: brentwoodchamber.co.uk/executive-committee.



■ Matt Barry of Blue Serif was one of our two speakers at the 2019 Chamber Christmas Luncheon

A perfect way to wrap up Chamber's 2019

Attendees at our Christmas Luncheon were treated to two tremendous speakers to enjoy over their festive fare, as Mandy Baker and Matt Barry took the microphone at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite.

We're very grateful to Matt, from multiple Brentwood Business Awards winners Blue Serif, and Mandy - from Brentwood Business of the Year 2019, Baker Labels - for joining us on the day. Everyone took the chance for some final networking to end the year, with plenty more opportunities ahead in 2020.

This month's Meet the Members at Liquorice in Shenfield was booked up rapidly after going live in early December. So keep an eye out for forthcoming events - and if you don't do so already, we suggest you follow all the Chamber's social channels, which can be found in the footer of the back page.



Helping to propel the careers of up and coming sports stars at Brentwood School and sponsoring local sports clubs is an important part of business success to Brightstar

Brightstar shining in local community at work and play

New Chamber member Brightstar Financial finished 2019 as a high achiever both in their business categories as well as their work in the local community.

The Billericay-based company became a Chamber member to explore new opportunities to build on their relationships with local businesses and individuals.

Brightstar was named by The Sunday Times as the number one best small company to work for in the UK, and again for all companies in the East of England. They have won more than 75 national industry awards and have a Trustpilot score of 9.8/10, rated excellent.

They also pride themselves on the support they provide to the local community. Last summer Brightstar launched the 'Young Brightstar's' sponsorship programme, providing bursaries to invest in the development of outstanding sports stars from Brentwood School.

They also have a 'Young Learners Programme', which aims to encourage and engage young people with the world of financial services, providing opportunities for work experience placements, taster days and mentoring opportunities.

Since the launch, one of their work experience placements has progressed to become a full-time employee at Brightstar.

In addition to this, Brightstar are dedicated sponsors of Old Brentwood Rugby Club and Herongate Cricket Club.

As a specialist finance provider, they are used to assisting local and national businesses to achieve their financial goals. Brightstar have the knowledge and relationships with over 150 lenders who are willing to provide help, even if others have said no.

Since their inception in 2011, they've already originated over £3bn in specialist lending across eight key disciplines, including specialist residential mortgages, complex buy-to-let mortgages, second charge mortgages, bridging finance, commercial mortgages, commercial finance, development finance, later life lending and unsecured loans.

If you would like to know more about how Brightstar can help you or your business, or if you would like to know more about their work in the community, please call Steve Burch on 01277 635496.

Final glut of new members to complete 2019

There's never been a better time to be a member of Brentwood Chamber, as the number of new organisations joining every month continues to illustrate - another 17 being approved at the end of 2019.

The Little Edi Foundation are a charity focussed on UK Youth Volunteers; **Jolly Good Scents** specialise in premium home fragrances; **Independent Telecoms Brokers** provide telecom products and services; while **Action Coach** specialises in business growth.

Steven Eagell Toyota (Romford) is an official approved Toyota Centre; **Utility Warehouse's** Mike Smith is an authorised distributor for the UW Discount Club; **Findit Entertainment, Events & Promotions** supply entertainment needs; and **Not Just Travel** is an independent personal travel consultancy.

Brentwood Development Partnership was formed recently to develop sites across the Borough; **Trer Professional Services** focus on later life lending; **PDT Sales Consultancy** provides external sales advice; while **Brentwood Town FC** is the town's non-league side, playing in the Isthmian North Division.

B-Beautiful, a makeup artist, also gives makeup lessons; **Tropic Skincare** supplies natural, vegan, cruelty-free skincare and makeup; **Bubyli Internet Marketing** helps businesses with their online marketing; **The Recovery Rooms** focus on physical and mental wellbeing; and **Claire Bone Marketing and Project Management** works with small businesses, corporate and private companies.

Hiring for Growth - free workshop

Penny Hollington of Hollington Associates and Alex Pearce of Pinney Talfourd Solicitors are among the speakers at Brentwood Borough Council's January 14 employment workshop and networking event - Hiring for Growth.

Aimed at sole traders and SMEs, the panel at the Town Hall (5.30-8pm) will show how to grow your company by making smart recruitment decisions. It will be hosted by Carmel Jane of Carmel Jane Talks Business.

There will be networking opportunities before, during and after the workshop. Register at eventbrite.co.uk/e/hiring-for-growth-an-employment-workshop-for-sole-traders-and-smes-tickets-70899392993.

Chamber Events Calendar 2020

January

Friday 10 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Digital Technology Labs

Friday 17 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: How to Target, Engage & Sell Using Social Media
CREATE Business Hub, Brentwood

Tuesday 21 - Meet the Members wine tasting & networking
Liquorice, Shenfield

February

Tuesday 4 - Meet and Eat lunchtime event

The Teriss Bar; sponsored by UK Energy Management

Friday 14 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Brentwood Borough Council

Tuesday 25 - Meet The Members networking event

Howe Chartered Surveyors

Thursday 27 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: How to Maximise The Power of Your LinkedIn Profile

March

Friday 13 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Howe Chartered Surveyors

Friday 20 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: Blogging for more Business

Tuesday 24 - Meet The Members networking event
The Chiropractic Centre

April

Friday 17 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by The Chiropractic Centre

Tuesday 21 - Meet The Members networking event

Essex Wildlife Trust, Thorndon Countryside Centre

Friday 24 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: Using Facebook to get more business

May

Thursday 14 - Chamber Open Meeting & AGM

Friday 15 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Blue Serif

Friday 15 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: How to Easily Create Eye-Catching Images and Video for Your Social Media

TBC - Meet The Members networking event

Bretts Business Recovery

June

Friday 12 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Bennetts Funerals

Friday 19 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: How to Build a High Converting Sales Funnel

Tuesday 23 - Meet The Members networking event
SNAP

July

Friday 10 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Guided Learning

Monday 20 - Meet The Members networking event

Saint Francis Hospice

August

Friday 14 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Brentwood

TBC - Meet The Members networking event

The Teriss Bar

September

Friday 11 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Carers First

Friday 18 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: How to run an engaging Instagram Profile

Tuesday 22 - Meet The Members networking event
Guided Learning

October

Friday 9 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Aching Arms

Friday 16 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: How to Use Instagram Stories

TBC - Meet The Members networking event
Kinetic Podiatry Clinic

November

Friday 6 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: Give yourself the Gift of New Customers this Christmas - How to Run a Highly Effective Marketing Campaign

Friday 13 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Brentwood Development Partnership

TBC - Meet The Members networking event
Brentwood Brewery

December

Friday 11 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by 24 fingers

See brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events for all the latest event updates and online bookings.



Thanks to Tutor Doctor Dagenham Upminster for sponsoring our last Business Breakfast of 2019 - your support is very much appreciated!

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