

Come and 'Meet The Chamber' at networking and AGM evening

Following the success of our Meet The Members events, we decided it would be a good idea to hold a series of 'Meet The Chamber' events - the main one of which will also include Chamber's AGM.

"Having spoken to both members and non-members, we discovered that many of you are not fully aware of the range of services and events offered by the Chamber," explained chairman Colin Barber. "So this will be an ideal event for you to find out more about us".

In addition to the chance to network with members and non-members, Meet the Chamber (set for Thursday May 14 at a venue to be confirmed shortly) will enable you to find out more about how Chamber can help you to build your business.

"There will also be the opportunity for you to ask questions of our Executive Committee and tell us what you want from the Chamber," added Colin.

"The event, which will also include our AGM, will be free to both members and non-members, so if you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Chamber please invite them to come along."

This follows an initial Meet The Chamber event at Sienna's Restaurant last month aimed at non-members in Shenfield and Hutton, with further events planned for Ingatestone and other Borough areas.

Meanwhile further Meet & Eat lunchtime networking events have been scheduled at The Teriss Bar for April 7 (sponsored by You & I Care) onwards - with sponsors still sought for May 5, June 2, August 4, September 1, October 6 and November 3. For more info email chamber.office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk. Book online at brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events.

In addition, the Executive Committee has discussed reviving Brentwood in Bloom for 2020, with three commercial categories. Full details of overall and category sponsorship packages will be released as plans progress.



Brentwood Borough Council kindly sponsored our February Business Breakfast, outlining its new Corporate Strategy for 2020-2025 - full details of which can be found at brentwood.gov.uk

Business Awards ready to roll

Brentwood Business Awards are back - with entries set to launch online at the end of the month, and Awards night itself now confirmed for November 6, once again at Orsett Hall Hotel.

Pinney Talfourd Solicitors will be Headline Sponsor for the third year running, with some exciting changes coming in 2020. Awards categories and category sponsors are being finalised - but there will be some brand new categories this year!

See brentwoodchamber.co.uk/business-awards and our social channels for more details over the coming weeks.

A virtual assistant can improve your life!

When running a business, time is a valuable and finite resource. And yet many business people spend an ever increasing amount of time on admin, which gets in the way of them growing their business and eats up spare time.

In an ideal world they'd have a personal assistant or administrator to lend a hand and organise their life. However, employing someone to do this is both costly and inflexible and many businesses feel they can't warrant the extra cost. This is where a Virtual Assistant (VA) can help.

A VA is an independent professional who provides admin and secretarial support remotely and on a part-time, flexible basis. You pay a VA when you need them or for a specific task and, because they aren't employees, there are no additional costs such as paid leave or a pension.

Be it email and diary management, organising travel, planning meetings, personal admin, providing wider secretarial services or most things that distract you from actually making money, a VA is an inexpensive and flexible solution to that perpetual problem of 'never having enough time'.

Chamber member Liberty Executive Services pride themselves on freeing up time spent on the drudgery that comes with running a business. Time that can be better spent growing your business, making money or simply doing the things in life you enjoy

See [facebook.com/LibertyExecSvcs](https://www.facebook.com/LibertyExecSvcs) for more information.

Another 21 newbies

We had 21 new members sign up last month including Matchroom Sport, Attract and Engage, Sienna's, Alpha Vesta CIC, WeBuildEssex, Wylie Pet Wellness Centre, Admin Inc Limited, Sector Staff Ltd and Players Lounge.

Also joining were Grayers Graphics, Classical Catering, Landons Solicitors, 39D Services, Absolute Office Solutions, Emergency Response First Aid Training & Medical Supply, Vision Magazine Essex, Website Support UK, Keller Williams, Scurfield and Associates, Sparkly Celebrations and Pazuzu.

See all details in the Members' Directory at [brentwoodchamber.co.uk/members](https://www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/members).

'End to end' commercial property offering sees FJG prepared for 2020

This year promises to be an eventful one for all those working in or alongside construction. Chamber member Fisher Jones Greenwood has responded by collaborating with Rebecca Palmer, Solicitor and Director of SRA-regulated Constructive Law Limited, who joined its commercial property team in January.

Rebecca qualified into one of London's market-leading engineering, construction and procurement practices in 2006 and has specialised ever since in the provision of construction law support to all sectors of the UK construction and engineering industries.

"Alongside the impact of Brexit - the specific challenges of which are generating an increasing prevalence of so called 'Brexit clauses' in construction contracts - the Queen herself informed us in her speech of December 2019 of the government's promise to implement the biggest infrastructure revolution in living memory," said Rebecca.

"The National Infrastructure Strategy is therefore anticipated to be published alongside the next budget so it will be an eventful year, particularly when you also factor in the anticipated Building Safety and Fire Safety Bills (directly responding to recommendations following the Grenfell tragedy), the upcoming uplifts in energy efficiency standards that will be a stepping stone towards the introduction of the Future Homes Standard by 2025 - and the publication of the final report of the Infrastructure Resilience Consultation which is due in spring 2020."

Rebecca's recruitment is timely as she can provide legal and commercial insights to developers, contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, tenants and lenders in need of tailored, effective and value-driven support in the procurement and delivery of construction projects.

Ellen Petersen, Partner and Head of Commercial Property at FJG, added: "Coupled with FJG's known strengths in commercial property and planning, the broadening of the practice to now incorporate construction law enables FJG to offer our clients the strength and depth of a full 'end to end' commercial property service.

"With over 15 years' experience, Rebecca is well-known in her field, particularly across Essex and Suffolk. She is commended by The Legal 500 and Chambers directories and she is available now to assist with Construction Law matters across all of FJG's offices in Essex and London."



Rebecca Palmer, adding to FJG's commercial property strengths

Learn the Secrets of Success with Chamber chairman

How often have you wondered what would make your business stand out from others, what would put you way ahead of the competition? One of the best sources of inspiration and ideas is to model those who have already achieved success in business.

Chamber chairman Colin Barber, who started his first business at the age of 16, has spent the last 30 years studying successful entrepreneurs searching for the secrets to their success. As a business consultant and coach he puts that knowledge to use to help his clients move their businesses up to the next level.

He is now offering an opportunity to hear more about what he has learned from successful entrepreneurs - including some fascinating stories about the phenomenal success of Walt Disney - at an event (including networking opportunities) this spring, held at Brentwood Theatre on Wednesday May 6. He will also be talking to some of the winners of the Brentwood Business Awards to try and ascertain the Secrets of their Success.



ACL Essex will again be the venue for the second Brentwood Business Briefing next month

Double helping of 2020 business workshops

BEST Growth Hub is hosting two free workshops in Brentwood this month as part of their Ready for 2020 Business Resilience series.

Cashflow Forecasting for Existing Businesses takes place on March 24 (9.30am-3.30pm) at the Holiday Inn on Brook Street, delivered by Anglia Ruskin University, and will focus on cash flow management and its use as a management tool.

Brexit uncertainty spills over in volatility and unknowns for companies' revenues and costs. Therefore, this training supports businesses in forecasting and evaluating the impact of changes to their cash flows on their financial performance.

The University will also deliver a Cyber Security Workshop on March 31 at the same venue. The training session will look at: a world of experts and criminals; the cybersecurity cube; cybersecurity threats, vulnerabilities and attacks; and protecting a cybersecurity domain.

Book for both events via bestgrowthhub.org.uk/events.

Want to meet P Squiddy?

Celebrity mascot P Squiddy is on tour this month, helping to champion the work of Saint Francis Hospice - and hoping that people will donate a £squid or more towards the £21,000 it takes to keep the Hospice running each day.

The fundraising brainchild of Chamber member 24 fingers, P Squiddy would love to come and say hello to you and your team, and maybe take a quick selfie for social media while he's there.

Get more info on how they are supporting Saint Francis Hospice's £50 Challenge at justgiving.com/fundraising/50squid4sfh.

Get set for big events

Chamber has already confirmed the dates for two popular events in the Brentwood business calendar.

Firstly our Summer Barbecue for 2020 will take place on Wednesday July 1 - at an exciting new venue, to be confirmed soon!

And the Christmas Lunch is set for Thursday December 17.

Business Briefing to focus on digital marketing

Following the successful launch of the first Brentwood Business Briefing last September, the networking event returns to ACL Essex in Hutton on April 30 (5.30-7.30pm) with the theme of Digital Marketing.

Co-hosted by the Chamber, Brentwood Borough Council and Brentwood Business Partnership, the Briefing will feature a series of informative presentations from digital marketing experts, an exhibitor display and plenty of networking opportunities with businesses from Brentwood and beyond.

Booking for this Briefing will be via the Chamber's website at brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events.

Watch the Tour of Flanders Live with HCSCC

Howe Chartered Surveyors is wheelie pumped to announce sponsorship of The Tour of Flanders Live @ Blackmore Sports and Social Club on Sunday April 5, with free admission! There's ample parking, a licenced bar, and catering by The Feel Good Café, masters of vegan delights. Secure bike parking is available (£1).

Before the race goes live, cyclists can sneak a ride. All cyclists are welcome to partake in the pedalling - and then hit the showers.

HCSCC proudly sponsors alongside Blackmore Sports Apparel, SMP London, Active Essex Foundation, Momentum Cycles, The Feel Good Café, and Brentwood Brewing Co. There are whispers Brentwood Brewing Co has a special beer for the big event.

Whether you're a cycling enthusiast, or you love the look of lycra, this event is for you. If interested, contact info@howecs.co.uk.

Want to join HCSCC? They ride Sunday mornings in two groups: beginner & experienced. For more information on how to join visit: hcsc.co.uk - and head to their Strava @HCSCC to view recent rides.

Get cancer support at monthly Tea & Talk at Toby's

Tea & Talk at Toby's is a monthly group for anyone whose life has been affected by cancer. The group is not only for people living with a cancer diagnosis but is also for those supporting them too.

Now into its third year, Tea and Talk is run by staff and volunteers from the OrangeLine service based at Saint Francis Hospice. You can expect to find between 20-25 people there of all ages and from all different walks of life.

It's a friendly group where they encourage people to support one another alongside the guidance of on-site professionals and visiting speakers.

Tea & Talk takes place at the Toby Carvery in Brentwood (near Shenfield Common) on the first Monday of every month (except Bank Holidays, when they meet on the following Monday). Parking and refreshments are free. Thanks to Toby Carvery for continuing to make this possible.

For more information, please call the OrangeLine team on 01708 758649 or email orangeline@sfh.org.uk.

Chamber Events Calendar 2020

March

Tuesday 3 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

The Teriss Bar, sponsored by Tees Law

Friday 13 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Howe Chartered Surveyors

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

CREATE Business Hub, Brentwood

Tuesday 24 - Meet The Members networking event

The Chiropractic Centre

Tuesday 31 - Meet The Members networking event

The Recovery Rooms

April

Wednesday 1 - Netwalking, in Herongate

Tuesday 7 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

The Teriss Bar, sponsored by You & I Care

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

Players Lounge, Billericay

Tuesday 28 - Meet The Members networking event

Players Lounge, Billericay

Thursday 30 - Brentwood Business Briefing & Networking

ACL Essex, Hutton

May

Tuesday 5 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

Tuesday 12 - Netwalking, in Little Warley

Thursday 14 - Chamber Open Meeting & AGM

Friday 15 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Blue Serif

Friday 15 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: Images & Video for Social Media

TBC - Meet The Members networking event

Bretts Business Recovery

June

Tuesday 2 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

Wednesday 10 - Netwalking, in Herongate

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

Monday 22 - Meet The Members networking event

SNAP

July

Wednesday 1 - Chamber Summer Barbecue

Tuesday 7 - Netwalking, in Little Warley

Thursday 9 - Brentwood Business Showcase - Chamber Zone

Brentwood School

Friday 10 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Guided Learning

Monday 20 - Meet The Members networking event

Saint Francis Hospice

Tuesday 28 - Meet the Members networking event

Bennetts Funerals

August

Tuesday 4 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

Wednesday 12 - Netwalking, in Herongate

Friday 14 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Brentwood

Tuesday 25 - Meet The Members networking event

The Teriss Bar

September

Tuesday 1 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

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

Tuesday 29 - Meet The Members networking event

Tees Law Directors

October

Tuesday 6 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

Friday 9 - Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Aching Arms

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

Tuesday 20 - Meet The Members networking event

Kinetic Podiatry Clinic

Monday 26 - Meet The Members networking event

Kids Inspire, Chelmsford

November

Tuesday 3 - Meet & Eat lunchtime networking event

Friday 6 - Brentwood Business Awards

Orset Hall Hotel

Friday 6 - Chamber Training Workshop run by 24 fingers: Marketing Campaigns

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

Thursday 17 - Chamber Christmas Lunch

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