

Breakfast and Lunch online with Chamber this autumn

No sooner had Chamber announced last month the intention to introduce an increasing series of offline events, new government restrictions made it clear that in-person meetings were going to be impossible again for the foreseeable future.

The executive committee was therefore left with little alternative but to cancel all the remaining scheduled events through to the end of the year - including the Chamber Christmas Lunch in December.

Although it is incredibly disappointing, the priority in these difficult COVID-19 times has to be the safety of members and any event attendees, and to ensure we comply with all current rules and guidelines.

So having wound down online events through the latter part of the summer, Chamber events coordinator Sally Sykes quickly came up with a schedule to wind them back up again and provide members with opportunities to meet and network online.

Following successful trials of a Virtual Breakfast concept, these will now be held virtually on the second Friday of each month, with an added twist. "We will be using breakout rooms so that individuals can network between themselves," explains Sally.

The last week of the month will feature a Virtual Lunch - with kudos to whoever brings along the most imaginative and tasty sandwich! Adds Sally: "Again there will be lots of networking between attendees within the breakout rooms, so come along and increase your connections and build collaborations. And non-members are very welcome too."

To finish off a very different year for us all we'll be staging our very first Virtual Christmas Lunch on Tuesday December 22, with the exact nature of the festivities around networking to be pinned down nearer the time.

After a break our Wellbeing Events got going again last month, and these are now planned once a month, while Member Spotlight webinars will also continue on a monthly basis.



Sadly we won't be able to run an in-person AGM this year like last year's at Brentwood Cricket Club

Plans afoot to make AGM virtual success and Chamber showcase

As with our networking events, the Chamber's delayed AGM is now no longer possible in-person as planned in November, and will revert to an online format.

The exact structure and timing of the event are still being discussed by the Chamber's executive committee, but hopefully it will not be too far away from the second Thursday of next month as most recently scheduled.

We want to try and maintain the concept of a Meet the Chamber event - to allow attendees to hear about what the Chamber offers, on top of the usual committee member reports and presentation of the annual accounts - plus potentially add some breakout networking time to give an extra benefit to all on the night.

We're also examining a potential high-profile keynote speaker, and looking at the best way to run the election for places on the executive committee online.



Brentwood Council Leader, Cllr Chris Hossack, and members of Essex Business Crime & Fraud Prevention Units were among those attending the launch of Brentwood Connect on Brentwood High Street

Brentwood Connect launch sees mass sign-ups

The launch of Brentwood Connect - the Chamber's new town link radio system for the Borough - was a roaring success last month, with more than 60 users signing up for the three-month free trial period.

And with the final details of a launch event for Ingatestone and Shenfield on October 6 being put in place as we went to press, it's possible around 100 users could be on board before the autumn is out!

If you're interested in the trial period through to November 30 - and we've even heard from businesses without fixed premises that are keen - then get in touch via chamber.office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk or see brentwoodchamber.co.uk/brentwood-connect for further information.

This new digital service - helping users share important safety information, reduce theft, network, link with CCTV control room, and engage with local Police and PCSO's - covers the whole of the Brentwood Borough, offering much-improved coverage compared to the previous system, which only covered Brentwood High Street and the immediate surrounding area.

Lockdown is prompt to check work wardrobe

"Has your emphasis on clothing shifted during lockdown living?" asks Kelly Cairn, of Chamber member House of Colour Upminster and Brentwood ([facebook.com/hockellycairn](https://www.facebook.com/hockellycairn)).

"There is little doubt that most people have turned to comfort dressing during the lockdown period. Even while still working, the fact that work has been carried out from home has meant that many of us have not been dressing as we would normally for office life.

"If you were to check how many items you have worn from your wardrobe since March, I expect that it would be far fewer items than normal. My interest in this comes from a professional aspect. I am an image consultant and very much interested in our relationship with clothes and especially how that has evolved during the current crisis.

"I suspect that there will be a smaller group of people for whom lockdown living has not affected how they dress. That could either be because the workplace dress code was already relaxed and therefore you did not dress formally, or it could be because you know that getting dressed in normal work clothes helps you to feel more professional and keeps you productive.

"I confess that I fall into this latter category. I have got dressed in my work clothes and put on make-up as though I was doing a normal 9-5 working day. I like to think it has kept my motivation and productivity up.

"However you have approached working from home, it is a good time to check what's in your wardrobe and make sure the items suit your lifestyle. This is always good practice when some sort of change occurs, so that you can make sure your hard-earned money is spent in the right areas.

"Thinking about cost per wear can really help you to get value out of your clothes and avoid have large chunks of your wardrobe unworn and unloved."

Chance to join local board for colleges

NCC Havering Colleges are looking to appoint up to four enthusiastic, community-minded people to be independent members on the Havering Colleges Local Board, part of the New City College Group.

The Havering Colleges (Havering FE College and Havering Sixth Form College) are managed as one unit and are part of the New City College group. The Colleges have their own Havering Local Board which establishes the local ambitions, priorities and objectives within the group structure.

If any Chamber members are interested in helping them develop excellence, see havering-college.ac.uk/about-us/-quality/havering-local-board. They are especially interested in people with any of the following:

- experience and knowledge of the local jobs market: maybe you work at a senior level for, or own, a business within, or near, Havering
- current experience in Higher Education
- a good understanding of teaching and learning

Nine newbies sign up

The Chamber membership ranks have been swelled by another nine newcomers, all having been approved by the executive committee at their September meeting.

Joining up were: **Sourced4You** who are specialists in high-yielding property investments advice; **The Cotton Textile Company**, who offer bespoke branded clothing and accessories; and **Buildtech Professionals**, who are a Brentwood-based building company.

Prospect Business Solutions offer bookkeeping services for small to medium size businesses; **JB Therapy Services** provide the benefits of a qualified integrative psychotherapist & counsellor; and **ITF Tech** deliver managed IT and cyber security services.

We can also welcome **VINTEC Immersive**, who provide VR solutions to AR/XR for training and presentations; **The Business Connector**, providing a range of business advice and communications services; and **ERB Commercial Insurance & Risk Management**, offering bespoke insurance and risk management.



A foretaste of the look and feel of the new care facility opening in Hutton next month

New care home in Hutton coming into view

A new care home will be opening in Hutton this year on Rayleigh Close. New Chamber member Hutton View Care Home is being built by Savista Developments for their sister company, Hallmark Care Homes, a Billericay-based and family-run care provider of 20 industry-leading care homes across the UK.

The new care home will provide a spacious, luxurious and sociable environment where family members are encouraged to spend time with their loved ones and participate in activities.

Facilities at the home will include: a cinema; music room; hairdresser; and therapy room. Each bedroom will be elegantly furnished, have an en-suite bathroom, and many of those on the ground floor will have access to their own patio.

Other communal areas include: a café; a celebrations room; a farmhouse kitchen; and several dining rooms which will enable relatives to have a meal with their loved ones on occasion. Outside there will be beautiful landscaped gardens with 77 newly-planted trees and a sensory walk for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Customer Relationship Manager at Hutton View Care Home, Carl Roberts, said: "We have over 20 years' experience building and running award-winning care homes. We are excited to be able to create a luxurious and engaging new care community in Hutton and to have built this in partnership with our sister construction company, Savista Developments.

"Hutton View Care Home will provide residents with a place where they feel safe and supported to live an active and fulfilled life."

Hutton View is scheduled to open its doors to its first residents in November. For further information please contact Carl at carl.roberts@hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk.

A 'V good' delivery behind the scenes

This year's V Festival in Hylands Park in Chelmsford defied the odds and went ahead with Olly Murs, Dizzee Rascal and Anne-Marie headlining - and with Chamber member Priority Support Services as proud partners.

Owner/director Tony White and his team ensured the V Fest 2020 venue, production crew, performers, presenters, security and their own staff were safe and secure, being in control of all cleaning and deep-cleaning requirements for the week-long event, broadcast on ITV.

"Priority Support Services were a huge help during V Fest 2020. From the get-go, Tony and his team were incredibly proactive and so accommodating towards all of our needs," said Krupa Kuntawala, of production company Twofour Broadcast.

"It was extremely reassuring, especially in the current climate, to know that all the different components of our site were being regularly sanitised and deep cleaned each day."

To find out how Priority Support Services can safeguard your event, stadium, or office see prioritysupportservices.com.

Driven to bring brand personalities to life

Aside from beautiful creative, there are two things you need to know about Chamber member Blue Serif: they love biscuits, and they also love their cheeky little colleague and company mascot, 'The Blue Sheriff'.

These two things have become as synonymous with their brand as their creative.

They also love bringing out the best of their clients' brands' personalities, too. A brand with personality is human and approachable, and sticks in the mind of your audience. How you breathe personality into your brand is up to you.

Blue Serif say they've seen local brands use mascots, company pets and digital avatars, among other quirky options.

Of course, their mascot not only raises awareness of Blue Serif, he also raises money for charity, having supported Chamber members SNAP and Saint Francis Hospice as well as Hopefield Animal Sanctuary with their Sheriff on the Shelf campaign in previous years.

As an insight into the way they work, they're happy to say they love that their little bit of personality is both fun for them and does good within the community.

The Blue Sheriff will be raising money for charity yet again this Christmas, and they'll also be sponsoring a nutcracker as part of Brentwood Council's nutcracker trail. We can't wait to see what mischief the two get up to together!

If you're looking for someone to breathe some personality into your brand, see blueserif.co.uk. Blue Serif love working with a variety of businesses, from the quirkiest of companies through to corporate and blue-chip organisations that want to inject a little bit of fun into their business.



Chamber Events Calendar 2020

October

Wednesday 7 - Netwalking

The Green Man, Herongate

Friday 9 - Virtual Breakfast

Via Zoom with networking in breakout rooms

Tuesday 13 - Wellbeing Evening

Via Zoom - guest presenter TBC

Tuesday 27 - Virtual Lunch

Via Zoom with networking in breakout rooms

November

Tuesday 3 - Wellbeing Evening

Via Zoom - guest presenter TBC

Friday 13 - Virtual Breakfast

Via Zoom with networking in breakout rooms

Tuesday 24 - Virtual Lunch

Via Zoom with networking in breakout rooms

TBC - Meet the Chamber & AGM + networking

Run online, date and structure detail to follow

December

Tuesday 1 - Wellbeing Evening

Via Zoom - guest presenter TBC

Friday 11 - Virtual Breakfast

Via Zoom with networking in breakout rooms

Tuesday 22 - Virtual Xmas Lunch

Our festive event will this year be via Zoom

Events can be booked in advance at [brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events](https://www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events).

Let us have your events and news

While COVID-19 is clearly going to restrict normal business activity for some time yet, we know that lots of members are still running a wide variety of events - even if the vast majority are once again going to be online.

In recent weeks we've had lots of submissions from members to the Members Events section of the Chamber website ([brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events/category/chamber-member-events/](https://www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events/category/chamber-member-events/)) and been able to showcase events from Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, Blackmore Four, Hutton View Care Home, The Wilderness Foundation UK, Achieve Your Greatness, Engleman Wills & Powers of Attorney and lots of others besides.

The good news is, we have endless capacity! So if you have any kind of business event coming up that you would like us to help you promote, then go to [brentwoodchamber.co.uk/add-member-event](https://www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/add-member-event) and upload the information.

Not only will your event benefit by getting an extra Google boost - but we also try and promote as many events as possible to our 2,000+ Twitter following and on our other social channels!

The same goes with your business news. The content of this newsletter is largely decided by you - the members. We need to hear from you with news about your business, your promotions and your case studies.

So please get in touch via the contacts at the foot of this page. The copy deadline for the November edition will be at the start of the second week of this month. We look forward to hearing from you!



We've managed to run a couple of Netwalking events starting from The Green Man in Herongate in August and September - and we plan another one for October, lockdown restrictions permitting... so register online and join us for a later afternoon walk and chat in the Essex countryside

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

Let's Connect:
Twitter: [@BwdChamber](https://twitter.com/BwdChamber)
Facebook: [@BrentwoodChambers](https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodChambers)
Instagram: [@brentwoodessexchamber](https://www.instagram.com/brentwoodessexchamber)
LinkedIn: [/company/brentwood-essex-chamber-of-commerce](https://www.linkedin.com/company/brentwood-essex-chamber-of-commerce)
YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UC39BxChrewL2v9P1KYEE8Jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC39BxChrewL2v9P1KYEE8Jw)

Newsletter Design:
JD Designs
www.jddesigns.co.uk
Newsletter Editor:
Julian Goode
www.juliangoode.co.uk