

The Essex Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Launches

If you own a company or if you work in HR or operations, you've probably thought at some stage about hiring an apprentice. It can benefit your business in many ways, from tackling a skill shortage to aiding staff retention and introducing fresh perspectives. Here, Steve Lee of New City College shares more information about apprenticeship programmes.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a real job and allows young people to earn while they learn, as well as gaining a nationally recognised qualification. An apprenticeship programme allows for tailored training (through a combination of hands-on work and in-classroom settings), enabling apprentices to become skilled in a particular sector.

Apprenticeship schemes help employers ensure they get exactly the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need, while growing a talented and engaged workforce. Employers running schemes value their apprentices because they help them fill the skills gap.

NCC delivers apprenticeships in many employment sectors including: Accounting, Business, Management, Catering, Hospitality, Children and Young People, Teaching, Hair, Construction, Engineering, Creative, IT, Health, Social Care, Motor Vehicle and Science. We offer training from Intermediate (level 2) through to Advanced (level 3) and Higher (level 4).

They can also work with you to discuss and develop additional training programmes to meet your needs.

Recruiting an apprentice

New City College (www.ncclondon.ac.uk) works closely with employers to recruit apprentices which meet their specific needs. They learn all about the employers' business and are able to select candidates who we know will be a good fit as an apprentice.

They offer a free service to recruit an apprentice for your organisation. A member of staff from our dedicated team will be assigned to work with you and establish the priorities for your opportunity, from upskilling existing staff to recruiting new apprentices.

Apprentice matching

Finding the perfect apprentice for your company is vital. NCC makes sure they understand your requirements, the job role and the skills you are looking for to match the ideal candidate. They carefully pre-screen everyone and only send successful candidates for you to interview.

If you would like to know more, email Steve Lee on: steve.lee@ncclondon.ac.uk



| Keeley Miller, FJG

Fisher Jones Greenwood Solicitors' partner Keeley Miller offers notary services

Chamber member Fisher Jones Greenwood Solicitors (www.fjg.co.uk) is delighted to announce that partner Keeley Miller is now offering notary services across all of FJG's offices in Essex and London.

There are currently just under 800 notaries in the UK, and FJG is thrilled to add this specialist provision to their umbrella of services.

Keeley will now be recognised as a specialist lawyer whose services include preparing and authenticating powers of attorney for use overseas.

Paula Cameron, FJG managing partner said: "Keeley has worked hard to realise this milestone, achieved by few. Thanks to her, we are very privileged to be able to offer a notary service at FJG."

Business Awards

As we reported in last month's newsletter, the Business Awards in 2021 will be taking place, as we believe it is important to put the spotlight back on those businesses which are continuing to succeed despite current adversities.

The format will most likely be slightly different from previous events, and it's still not certain if we will be able to hold a prestigious ceremony in November, but we will ensure that the Awards receive the publicity and recognition they deserve, which will undoubtedly boost the businesses of Brentwood.

We are continuing to seek sponsors for each category, and encourage as much publicity as possible for the Awards, so that we receive a high level of entrants.

If you would like to find out more about the Awards or are interested in sponsoring a category, then please contact our co-ordinator, Leah Burke:
leah.burke@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Brentwood care home resident brings poetry to local schoolchildren - virtually - to celebrate National Storytelling Week

Born in London's Whitechapel, Joan Vicente recently moved into chamber member RCH Care Homes' Nursing, Residential and Dementia Care Home in Larchwood Gardens, Brentwood (www.rchcarehomes.co.uk). Her passions are her husband Manuel, her children and grandchildren, her community and writing poetry.

When her family shared with the care team of dedicated professionals at the home her writing experience and love of poetry, they thought this part of her life was over, until the team at Brentwood Care Centre started planning the intergenerational event as part of RCH Care Homes National Storytelling Week, which ran until 6 February. They couldn't think of a better way of supporting Joan by including her in the care home's intergenerational partnership with Hopscotch Day Nursery.

It is this approach which enabled the team to co-ordinate and support Joan with a virtual poetry reading. The importance and benefits of intergenerational relationships are well documented, and Brentwood Care Centre are proud of their partnership with Hopscotch Day Nursery, who were overjoyed when the team contacted them about the idea.

"We've built up a great relationship with Brentwood Care Centre over the past couple of years and we've missed our visits, which had to stop since the Covid-19 pandemic. When the team contacted me about the idea, I jumped at the chance," said Karen, Hopscotch Day Nursery Manager.

Joan's family were delighted at the idea of being able to combine her passions of community, children and poetry, and it was an emotional and heart-warming event for everyone involved. "The staff at Brentwood Care Centre are unreal and beyond words. My mum looks like the lady I thought I would never see again," said Joan's daughter Sally.

Joan agreed, saying: "I've loved reading to the children, it's what I've done all of my life and would love it to continue doing so now I've done it once."

You can contact RCH Care Homes here:
www.rchcarehomes.co.uk



Vidushi Uppal brings her passion for delicious Indian food to the table with her no-contact takeaway nights.

Takeaway food hits another level with Tastefully Yours' Authentic Indian experience

Chamber member Vidushi Uppal reveals how she pivoted her business during the pandemic and found a new audience.

"I have had the pleasure of cooking for my local community with bespoke menus, charity fundraisers, school events, cooking demos, takeaway nights and Christmas stalls in the past six years with Tastefully Yours (www.tastefully-yours.co.uk)

It's been a privilege to witness people enjoy delicate Indian flavours that can only be found in authentic Indian home kitchens," she said.

"Last year was especially challenging for catering/food related businesses that rely on people getting together. Covid taught me to adapt and be innovative, so I pivoted my business plan and turned my formerly sporadic no-contact takeaway nights into a fortnightly event.

"And so the Authentic Indian Food and Cooking Experience was born! It offers a range of traditional and eclectic Indian dishes, prepared using fresh ingredients, matched to your palate and cooked with the utmost attention to detail.

It has proved very popular and is ideal for my regular Tastefully Yours clients, giving them a break from cooking and enjoying delicious, authentic Indian food every fortnight."

To book your experience or to find out more, drop Vidushi a line at contact@tastefully-yours.co.uk or ring 07837 364254.

Invitation to Carers First Employers Seminar

CarersFirst would like to invite you and your colleagues to attend an hour-long online seminar on 22 March 2021 starting at 2pm. There will be a short presentation and an opportunity to ask questions on the day or to organise a more in-depth conversation whenever convenient.

There are approximately five million carers across the UK who struggle to balance their caring responsibilities with their job, with one in six giving up work or reducing their hours to cope.

CarersFirst is a charity that works directly with and for unpaid carers, providing personalised information, advice and support to help them live their lives to the fullest. We are commissioned by Essex County Council to offer a free, county-wide service supporting carers aged 18 + and enable their employers to be carer-friendly.

It means that the organisation and people who work within it understand and value the work of unpaid carers, many of whom feel it is their duty to look after a loved one or friend.

Being a carer-friendly employer has business benefits:

- You don't lose experienced and skilled staff
- Reduction in the cost of recruitment
- Motivated and loyal staff who feel valued and supported

Contact www.carersfirst.org.uk to find out more.

Member Spotlight

Social distancing has presented challenges and opportunities for all of us. While it is not currently possible to run our popular Meet the Members networking events, this does not prevent us from getting to know other members.

The Member Spotlight webinars allow you to hear about other businesses in the Chamber of Commerce and provide you with some useful tips, which could be replicated in your business.

In each webinar, Chamber Chairman Colin Barber talks to one of our members, hears their story and learns some of the secrets of their success. It is a great opportunity to explore member businesses and look for possible future collaborations.

You can view previous episodes of Member Spotlights on the Chamber YouTube page: www.youtube.com/channel/UC39BxChrewL2v9P1KYEE8Jw, and if you would like to be featured in a future Member Spotlight webinar, email Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk for more information.



South Weald Cricket Club aims to build on its past success and hit a six with new sponsors in 2021

Past, Present and Future: South Weald Cricket Club

South Weald Cricket Club has seen a lot since it was formed in 1927 by local residents in the (now redundant) Tower Arms Pub. In 2020, like many Chamber members, the club found itself in the unusual situation of potentially not being able to play any cricket at all for the first time in most of our memories.

There is no denying there have been more major impacts from the pandemic than simply not being able to play cricket, however for a lot of our members like other sporting venues, it was a loss to what can be an escape from the real world.

We are fortunate to have a great charity partner that promotes positive mental health in our sport, Opening-Up Cricket (www.openingupcricket.com) who have offered support in difficult times, and we are always on the lookout to work with more local businesses.

We offer great exposure, and already have some excellent and mutually beneficial relationships. We are situated in a picturesque area between South Weald Country Park and Calcott Hall Farm in Brentwood, and our sizable clubhouse offers comfortable changing rooms, a large shower suite, a well-equipped bar, a kitchen and good social space.

We are always optimistic about the future, and aim for a positive 2021 season, here at South Weald. If you're interested in a collaboration, whether it's sponsorship, or dusting off an old cricket bat, email us at southwealdcricket@gmail.com

Dom Pye

South Weald Cricket Club

Chamber Events Calendar 2021

March

Friday 19 - Virtual Business Lunch

April

Friday 9 - Build Your Business: How to Use Instagram Stories for Business

Book events in advance at:
www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events

Newsletter Content

If you have any news or articles, which you think would be of interest to our members, then we would be happy to hear from you:

info@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Sponsor an Event With the Virtual Business Breakfast and Lunchtime Networking both established as monthly events, we are now offering sponsoring opportunities for these events. The benefits of sponsorship include:

- Event branding with sponsor's name and/or logo included on Eventbrite, Chamber Website, Zoom, Social Media posts and in the Chamber Newsletter.
- A follow up article in the newsletter.
- A 10 minute presentation during the event with the opportunity to include a video
- Live Q&A providing interaction with attendees.
- Option to record the presentation for YouTube.

If you would like more details then do contact us:

info@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Meet The Chamber and AGM

Thursday 13th May 7pm – Online via Zoom

Please join us for your virtual 'Meet The Chamber' event which will include the 2021 AGM. This will give you the opportunity to hear more from the Executive Committee and what the Chamber plans are for the future, as well as a reflection on the past 12 months.

Our Keynote Speaker will be announced shortly along with important guest presenters focusing on business in Brentwood Borough.

The event will be advertised shortly, and we do request that you register your free place to attend, so that we know how many people we should expect.

As you may also be aware, the Chamber is managed by a committee of volunteers, and the AGM is a time that enables us to invite our members to consider joining as a committee member. If you would like to become a member of the executive committee, then please complete the form available for download via our website and return to the Chamber office by close of play on Monday 5 April 2021.



BRENTWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS

BUSINESS LUNCH

Come and join us for our virtual lunch. Who will bring along the most imaginative and tasty sandwich? Lots of networking between attendees within the breakout rooms and a great opportunity to increase your connections and build collaborations.

**FRIDAY 19 MARCH | 12.30PM - 2.00PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Presents

BUILD YOUR BUSINESS

A training program designed to provide information and guidance in the form of training courses and workshops, which will help chamber members to develop and grow their business

HOW TO USE INSTAGRAM STORIES FOR BUSINESS

FRIDAY 9 APRIL 2021 | 10.00AM - 12:00 PM

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